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REMEMBER

Dick Hoyt: 1940-2021

#TeamHoyt has inspired countless people worldwide

By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

HOLLAND — It may have taken a little over 20 years to realize it, but Dick Hoyt was born to run. And in the world of long-distance running — one of the ultimate “individual” sports — he never ran alone.

Hoyt, along with his son Rick, became world-famous in 1980 as an atypical father-son duo in the Boston Marathon. Since then, the pair competed in over 1,000 endurance events, inspiring countless individuals, families and communities as



#TeamHoyt became synonymous with “can-do.”

Dick Hoyt passed away at his lakeside home March 17. He was 80.

His longtime companion, Kathy Boyer, referred media questions to Rick’s brother Russell, who could not be reached by press time. But the thousands of posts on Boyer’s Facebook page and in The Offi-



The team of Dick Hoyt and his son Richard are legendary for their performance in more than 1,000 endurance events such as marathon runs and ironman competitions that include exhausting biking and swimming courses.

Turley Publications file photos

cial Team Hoyt Site public group on that platform, as well as hundreds of tweets and other online forums is an enduring testament to how Dick, Rick and Team Hoyt touched countless lives.

It’s the kind of story that usually comes out of Hollywood, but this one couldn’t be any more rooted in reality. Rick was born a Holland resident in 1962 and due to complications at birth came into the world with cerebral palsy severe enough that he would never have control of his limbs and be dependent on a wheelchair for life.

“Dick Hoyt was an iconic part of the Boston Marathon for decades. Like so many, I was inspired by Dick and his son Rick when we saw them cross the finish line every year.”

— Mass. Gov. Charlie Baker, via Twitter

Against the advice of doctors at the time, Dick and Judy Hoyt — Rick’s mom — refused to institutionalize their son, who would go on to earn a degree from Boston University and a career in special education.

The details are all there online for anyone who’s not familiar. So many details. Type “Dick Hoyt,” “Team Hoyt,” or “Rick Hoyt” into any search engine and not only does the family’s story appear as the top results, those results scroll on for pages.

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EDUCATION

\$18.7M Palmer school budget gets preliminary approval



This year’s Superintendent Award nominees are seniors (back, from left) Abby Rathbone, Jacob Mastalerz, and Kendall Levasseur and (front, from left) Olivia Sloat, Hannah Mega, and Miyah Mega. Nominee Karissa Woods is missing from the photo.

By Kimberly Palmucci
Correspondent

PALMER — The Palmer School Committee discussed several elements of its proposed budget during a public hearing last week, including salaries and utility costs, and voted to approve the preliminary fiscal year 2022 budget of \$18.7 million.

The budget was initially presented in February and shows an increase of 1.5%. According to information presented during the meeting, some budget benefits outlined include a return to brick-and-mortar schools after a year of remote and hybrid learning, increased intervention at Palmer High School, the addition of one

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RAILWAY



Possible sites for a Palmer passenger rail platform that were identified in a earlier study. The steering committee working to make the an east-west line a reality is now focusing on locations for a Palmer depot.

Passenger rail team sees reasons to feel optimistic

By Michael Harrison
mharrison@turley.com

REGION — The wheels of government are known to turn excruciatingly slow, but citizens and public officials pushing for the creation of a passenger rail line from Pittsfield to Boston are feeling some momentum building.

In one instance, someone in a position to exert power has given the project a legislative push. State Sen. Eric Lesser, who represents the First Hampden and Hampshire districts, introduced a bill called “An Act to establish fast, frequent, and reliable passenger rail service between Pittsfield and Boston via Springfield” to codify the proposal and unlock tens of millions of dollars in state funding that has been approved but remains unspent.

“I don’t know that’s going to

pass or anyone is going to do that, but it was a stroke of genius on Lesser’s part to basically say, ‘we want this to happen. You will start running east-west rail passenger service in January 2022,’” Ben Hood, chairman of the Rail Steering Committee, said during a recent meeting held virtually over Zoom.

The bill says MassDOT “shall run passenger rail service between the cities of Pittsfield and Boston via Springfield at least five-times daily on the existing CSX rail line. The department may utilize the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority or contract with outside entities in order to run said passenger rail service. The department may also utilize a portion or all of the \$50 million in capital authorization allocated for East-West passenger rail service.”

Co-signed by Senators Anne Gobi (Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire, and Middlesex), Joanne

GOVERNMENT

Virtual town hall topics range from vaccines to passenger rail

By Michael Harrison
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REGION — Sen. Eric Lesser didn’t miss an opportunity to take a shot at Gov. Charlie Baker and the state’s initial COVID-19 vaccine rollout during a virtual town hall forum held last week over Zoom, Facebook and Twitter.

Questions were asked in real time and also were submitted in advance during registration for the forum.

Over about 90 minutes, Lesser, D-Longmeadow, with aide Joel McAuliff as moderator, fielded questions about the state’s COVID-19 vaccine program, economic recovery, winding down pandemic restrictions, the environment, energy, and infrastructure, including the East-West passenger

rail proposal. Other topics came up as well.

Here are some of the highlights, including Lesser’s opening remarks:

“Normally around this time of year, as the snow starts to melt and spring is here, we’re out and about at St. Patrick’s Day events and parades and community festivals. And it’s just a great time of year as everybody can get out and be together,” Lesser said.

“Of course, we can’t do that in the normal way this year that we normally do, but we still need to stay connected. And I still want to hear from all of you. So we’re experimenting with a new format here to allow everyone to continue to interact safely and get their questions to us. But first, I just want to say thank you to everyone



For about 90 minutes, Sen. Eric Lesser fielded questions about the state’s COVID-19 vaccine rollout, economic recovery and more during a live-streamed town hall forum last week.

Courtesy photo

watching and to everybody who is a constituent of mine and beyond for your faith in me over the last year and over the last six years that we’ve been together and that I’ve been able to serve as your state sen-

ator. This has obviously been a very hard year, to say the least. But I just want you to know that I wake

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FUNDRAISER

Domestic Violence Task Force needs gift cards for Easter

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER — To assist those who have been affected by domestic or intimate partner violence, the Palmer Domestic Violence Task Force is accepting gift cards for Big Y, CVS, Walgreens and Walmart from now until Mar. 31.

The gift cards are timed to help the people the task force assists enjoy a brighter Easter.

Emily Skoczylas, manager of the PDVTF, said it’s important for the Palmer community to know the organization doesn’t just offer support during what might be con-

sidered the “big holidays,” such as Christmas.

“Things continue to be challenging with COVID and we really want to make sure the victims of domestic violence or intimate partner violence felt like there was still a piece of community supporting them,” Skoczylas said.

“I know a lot of them have been going through a difficult time with not being able to have a court hearing or with kids home, making things even more difficult. We want to do something so ensure their kids wake up on Easter Sunday with a gift.”

All gift cards must be mailed to town hall at: 4417 Main St. #3,

Palmer MA 01069 and must be addressed to the PDVTF.

“They can be mailed to or dropped off at the Community Development Office,” Skoczylas said. “They have offered to collect the gift cards. I also have a form either a social worker or family member can fill out which they can email me to get. I will also get in contact with them or their social worker to meet with me. I can’t guarantee how much a family will get, but I will try to give at least one gift card to each one,” she said.



Emily Skoczylas

Skoczylas also said all information she receives will be confidential.

The PDVTF promotes education and awareness in the community, while empowering, educating and providing resources to anyone who has been affected by domestic or intimate partner violence.

For more information on the gift card drive and the appropriate form to fill out to be a recipient, or to learn more about the task force, email PalmerDVTF@gmail.com or call 413-324-8585. They are also on Facebook.



Officials: Source of two recent house fires determined

BONDSVILLE — In the early morning hours of Sunday, March 14, the Palmer Police and Bondsville fire departments responded to a fire at 135 Griffin Street and later that day to another at a home on High Street, both in Bondsville.

No injuries were reported, but that Griffin Street home was destroyed. Detectives from the Palmer Police Department, members of the Bondsville Fire Department, and Mass. State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal jointly investigated both fires and believe they determined the causes and provided more details.

The home on Griffin Street had totally collapsed and the owner's car was in the driveway, which caused concern that he might be trapped inside, according to the fire marshal's office. He was later found safe and sound. A second floor fireplace was determined to be the cause.

It "was in near continuous use over several months for heat with no chimney maintenance," the fire marshal's office said in a statement.

"It is likely there was a chimney fire or an ember escaped from the fireplace. However, given the extent of the damage, an exact cause cannot be determined.

Assistant Fire Chief Paul Sigovitch said on Griffin Street, the department was notified about a fire at 1:19 a.m., which consumed an entire three-bedroom, residential log cabin home and created a brush fire, which also threatened the neighbor's properties.

"In the course of this fire, large mutually tanker task force was needed because it was just outside the hydrant district," Sigovitch said.

The High Street fire was in a building being remodeled from a side-by-side duplex into a single family home. The fire started and was contained to a second floor room.

"The cause of the fire is consistent with burning ritualistic material such as sage and incense," according to the fire marshal's office statement.

"One family member alerted all other residents to the fire. Everyone escaped unharmed. There was some delay in calling 9-1-1."

Palmer Fire Department, Three Rivers Fire Department, Ware Fire Department, Belchertown Fire Department, Warren Fire Department and Monson Fire Department provided Bondsville Fire Department mutual aid that day for those fires and a third one that day, and Brimfield Fire Department also provided station coverage.

NEW TOWN EVENT

Want to be part of something Easter-ific this year?

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

PALMER — After so much success for the Santa's Elves for Palmer's Stuff the Cruiser last December, event organizer Lori Chiacchia is hoping to replicate it for Easter.

Chiacchia is requesting the public's assistance in putting together the first annual "Easter-ific Egg Hunt of Palmer."

The event, which approved by Town Manager Ryan McNutt earlier this month, is scheduled to take place on Pulaski Park in Three Rivers 9:45 a.m. to noon April 3, with a rain date of April 10. The egg hunts begins at 10 a.m., but starting 9:45, young children can visit with the Easter bunny, who will also be present for all the festivities and hand out gifts. The event will also be age accommodated for two groups of children — ages 1 to 4 and 5 to 10.

Chiacchia also will be receiving help from Demore's Automotive co-owner Jay Demore, whose shop has been a cog in community-wide holiday events.

"When it comes to the community, he's there to lend a helping hand no matter what," Chiacchia said.

"He goes above and beyond his work at his shop. I think are a great team and we're going to do this every year together. It's the start of something new in Palmer."

With the COVID-19 pandemic still part of life since the last event she put together, Chiacchia said she wanted to help the Palmer community celebrate Easter more traditionally than this time last year. She said the smiles on the children's faces when they see the Easter bunny and have



Lori Chiacchia

some outside fun with their family is what will make putting the event together worthwhile.

"Kids will get to say 'hi' to the Easter Bunny and give them a hug and high five," Chiacchia said.

"Face masks and other protocols will still be in place, but I still hope this brings lots of smiles to kids' faces."

To help make this event a success, Chiacchia said she is hoping the public will help with donations such as plastic eggs and financial contributions.

Space is limited and reservations are required. To contact Chiacchia, donate and reserve a space, visit Santa's Elves for Palmer's Facebook page or Chiacchia's personal Facebook account at misslori30.

WANT TO HELP?

Fire leaves residents without a home

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

LUDLOW — Following a kitchen fire that severely damaged his home, Ludlow resident Adam Fuller is reaching out, asking the community to assist him with the materials he needs to make repairs and restore his family's home.

Fuller, who said he has been out of work for over nine months due to a workman's compensation issue, is trying to support his children and fiancé Yun Kim. The couple received payments through the American Recovery Act and said they had to spend it all on immediate expenses.

Fuller said he is appreciative if his friends Mike and Laura Tuck for organizing a GoFundMe campaign, which he said he did not even know about until a day after it was posted.

"If it weren't for them putting it out there for the community, I don't think I would be in the position I'm at," Fuller said.

"I can't be but thankful for people like them in my life."

He also said he is appreciative of Ludlow resident Patricia Gregoire, who posted a link to the GoFundMe page on the Ludlow Community Forum group on Facebook.

To make a contribution of cash or building materials, go to [gofundme.com](https://www.gofundme.com) and search "Adam Fuller" or call 413-265-9404.



Courtesy Photos

Adam Fuller and his fiancé Yun Kim lost their home and all their possessions in a house fire. A GoFundMe campaign has been set up to help the couple recover.

PALMER ■ from page 1

school psychologist and one family outreach coordinator, continued efforts with technology and digital learning, health and safety, pandemic recovery, social emotional learning, capital improvement, and more.

During the public hearing, members of the community were given an opportunity to present concerns or requests. One audience member questioned if the budget had been published anywhere yet, and members said the budget will not be

published until after the committee votes to approve it.

School Committee members discussed elements of the budget with Superintendent Patricia Gardner, including an equity raise of \$7,000 for the district's business manager position, which would bring the salary to \$100,00 — commensurate rate with other districts, she said.

"I don't want to lose a good business manager to salary and I don't think we would...but I also don't want to lowball someone," Gardner said.

Committee members also discussed

the proposed budget showing a "zero percent change" in certain areas concerning utilities, and it was explained that based on a 16-month forecast of electric use and heating based on predictive prices, combined with the fact that water usage and electricity has been down this year due to COVID-19, the budget will not require an increase to utility costs for at least another year.

Award nominees

Also during the School Committee meeting, seven seniors were introduced

as this year's Superintendent's Award nominees—the most nominees the district has ever had for the award. The nominees are Abby Rathbone, Jacob Mastalerz, Kendall Levasseur, Olivia Sloat, Hannah Mega, Miyah Mega, and Karissa Woods.

"I haven't made a decision (yet) this year," Gardner said of interviewing the nominees. "Part of what I love is to talk to kids...to listen to them."

The winner will be announced during a ceremony at the end of the semester.

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One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

HOYT | from page 1

People might tend to throw around the word “iconic” without much thought, but Dick and Rick and their team undeniably deserve the label. A bronze statue depicting the two – Rick in his specially made racing chair and his dad behind him ready to run – pays tribute to them near the Boston Marathon starting line. The hashtag #TeamHoyt travels around the world and back at the speed of the internet. An annotated Wiki page with about two dozen foot-noted references documents the family’s story and the impact they’ve had.

They even received a Jimmy V Award at the ESPYS.

“Dick Hoyt was a faithful father who was relentless in his love for his son Rick and his entire family. A magnificent inspiration to every single one of us, Dick will be remembered forever as a hero and beloved icon of the Boston Marathon.”

— U.S. Sen. Ed Markey, via Twitter

“I had the pleasure of meeting Dick and Rick a number of times,” Mass. Sen. Anne Gobi said this week.

“We all know of the great feats of stamina, the marathons, the ironmans, but Dick and Rick also participated in small, local running events and their presence gave a sense of prestige to those races. The first time I met Dick I was struck by how unassuming and humble he was. The love and commitment that Dick showed for his son made an impact on people all over the world. I am a member of the Team Hoyt Facebook site and since Dick’s passing there have been over 31,000 visits to the site from people across

“Team Hoyt inspired the very best in each of us and Dick’s passing is a loss for every person that he touched throughout his life. He was such a positive role model that gave you confidence when you doubted yourself.”

— State Rep. Todd Smola

the nation, six continents and 100 nations.”

State Rep. Todd Smola also talked about a personal experience with Dick Hoyt.

“I was running a road race in Holland a few years ago and I will never forget seeing Dick at the finish line encouraging us, clapping and cheering for the runners as we crossed the finish line,” Smola said.

“I feel blessed that I had the chance to know this special person. He was a real hero.”

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, services will be held private. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made in his memory to The Hoyt Foundation at teamhoyt.com.

DEADLINE

The Journal Register has changed its firm deadline for public submissions to Mondays. To get your submission in for that week’s edition, email Editor at mharrison@turley.com or call the office at 413-283-8393 by noon on Mondays. We appreciate the cooperation of our readers.

NOTICE

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Spring back to life with Hitchcock Academy classes

BRIMFIELD — Who doesn’t love spring?

This year, the season offers a special promise of hope and optimism. At Hitchcock Academy, plans are underway for life outside the cocoons forced on us by COVID. Plans to learn new skills, to get into shape, to meet old friends, to make new acquaintances and to develop new routines.

Be assured that HFA continues to follow guidelines for social distancing and sanitizing and, as guidelines change, Hitchcock will work to develop new programming.

Now is the right time to work out whatever kinks inactivity might have inflicted on your body with a Pilates Class. Pilates promotes flexibility, good posture, and balance while strengthening the core muscles. Instructor Karen Larsen will insure all COVID protocols are followed while guiding you to build a stronger, healthier body.

Learn new skills, gain knowledge

On March 28, Let’s Cake Decorate with Sue Gaulin is back to teach you the art of using sugar to create an Easter themed Bunny Tree Stump cake. With the promise of more social gatherings on the horizon, now is the time to develop the basic decorating skills to make your confections the centerpiece of any event. Sue’s provides everything you’ll need for the class and



At Hitchcock Academy in Brimfield this spring, take classes that range from cake docketing to martial arts, learn financial skills, how to train your dog and get ready for the annual farmer's market.

when you’re done you’ll be taking home your own perfect creation.

On March 30, Hitchcock is pleased to present Thrive, United Way’s personal financial coaching program, created to help people get ahead with an array of free and confidential services. This online, one-hour, free program is designed to introduce consumers to



Courtesy photos

Let’s Cake Decorate with Sue Gaulin begins March 28 at Hitchcock Academy.

the various programs offered by Thrive such as money skills classes, budget creation, credit repair and debt reduction. You must register ahead of time online at hitchcockacademy.org for the free link.

As the season progresses, Hitchcock Academy is looking forward to expanding its roster to include astronomy and fencing, while offering new sessions for yoga, dog training, piano, viola, and violin. Martial Arts with Sensei Israel Lopez are a pathway to develop balance, coordination, confidence, and teamwork. Twice a week sessions in this Olympic sport are now being offered at special pricing. On Saturday, May 1 students aged 11-15 can enroll in Babysitter Training Class, which will provide instruction in child development, fire safety, emergency procedures, coping with difficult situations, and Heimlich.

With spring comes the 15th Annual Farmer’s Market, which runs from April 17 through October on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For the latest information regarding class schedules and special events such as the Farmer’s Market follow Hitchcock Academy on Facebook and on their website hitchcockacademy.org.

New app launches, aids Connecticut River paddlers

GREENFIELD – A new smartphone app launched on World Water Day, March 22, to help paddlers navigate the Connecticut River, particularly for multi-day paddles.

The Connecticut River Paddlers’ Trail is a unique, water-based trail that includes a series of primitive campsites and river access points spanning over 400 miles of the Connecticut River through NH, VT, MA and CT.

CRPT is managed by a collaborative of more than 30 nonprofit organizations and state agencies, including the Connecticut River Conservancy, the Appalachian Mountain Club, and the Vermont River Conservancy. Those interested in downloading the app can find it in CRC’s online store at ctriver.org/shop or search “Guthook Guides” in your smartphone app store.

“We chose to launch this new app on World Water Day, a day where people around the world recognize the importance of water in our lives,” says Gabriel Chevalier, CRPT Co-

ordinator. “The Connecticut River is the longest river in New England and enriches our lives in many ways. It offers many recreational opportunities that promote healthy communities and boost local economies. This new app offers paddlers an easy-to use digital paddling guide to navigate the CRPT campgrounds, access points, rapids and other resources along the Connecticut River.”

Proceeds from the \$9.99 app and waterproof printed maps are used to fund trail stewardship projects. The app was developed in partnership with Atlas/Guthook Guides, who offer similar app-based guides for other well-known trails like the Long Trail and the Appalachian Trail. The Connecticut River Paddlers’ Trail map is available as an in-app purchase in the Guthook Guides app, a free download from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store.

The Connecticut River Paddlers’ Trail is managed by a collaborative of organizations, guided by a shared vision. Partners assist with trail planning and development, building and stewarding primitive campsites, improving access points and portage trails, and disseminating information to visitors. Campsite development, as well as ongoing stewardship, is carried out by volunteers, scout troops, and youth stewardship corps who work together to mitigate the impacts of recreation use. To learn more, visit connecticutriverpaddlertrail.org.

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SAMMY

Hello! My name is Sammy. I’m 14 years old and my family is the Krolls of Palmer. I have polydactyl paws! I love drinking out of the fish tank and lounging on the couch. I also love bugging my family to give me food every time they walk by my bowl!

We feature your pets here and on Facebook every week. Is your fur friend a dog, cat, chicken, lizard, horse, bird, mouse...you get the point. Is there a pet you’re fostering and trying to re-home? All pets are welcome! Email a high-resolution jpg of your pet with a little information to mharrison@turley.com.

Baystate Wing accepting scholarship applications

PALMER — The Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary has announced applications are now being accepted for their annual scholarship program. The scholarships will be awarded to graduating seniors attending local schools, including Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, and Pathfinder high schools who are pursuing higher education in a healthcare field.

“Despite the current COVID-19 virus restrictions, limiting the group’s ability to fundraise, the Auxiliary members are proud to continue their annual tradition of offering seven \$1000 scholarships to area students,” said Teresa Grove, Auxiliary vice president.

Scholarship Application Information:

- All applications must be submitted via email by April 27.
- Seven (one year) scholarships will be awarded by the Baystate Wing Auxiliary in May of 2021.
- Each scholarship will be in the amount of \$1,000. Applicants must be planning to pursue a career in health care and must be accepted into an accredited health care program such as nursing, medicine, physical therapy, occupational therapy, radiology, pharmacy, medical technology as well as other health care related fields.
- A student who is graduating from Ludlow, Monson, Palmer, and Pathfinder high schools in 2021 can apply.
- Baystate Wing Hospital Auxiliary scholarship applications are available in each school’s guidance office and will be accepted by email only.

For more information, student applicants should speak to their guidance counselor.

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BBB ACCREDITED BUSINESS

Viewpoints

‘March-in’ Is not the answer

By Howard Dean

All Democrats and many Republicans are committed to making prescription drugs more affordable.

There is one strategy that is likely to make things worse: overriding patents on drugs developed with the help of federally funded research. This “march-in” option is not a good idea.

It hinges on the Bayh-Dole Act, a 40-year-old law that revolutionized scientific research in the United States. A provision within the law permits the federal government to “march in” and seize intellectual property that benefited from federal grants if that IP is not being made available to the public.

Prior to 1980, the government retained the patent rights to any breakthroughs that resulted from federally funded research. But the government didn’t do a good job licensing those patents to companies that could turn them into real-world products. In 1978, the feds held more than 28,000 patents. Just 5% of them were licensed.

To stop those ideas from going to waste, Senators Birch Bayh and Bob Dole spearheaded legislation that allowed universities to keep the patents on discoveries made by university researchers with the help of federal funding.

Universities have a huge incentive – namely, royalty payments – to partner with private sector companies to commercialize these patents. So do the researchers themselves, who may be able to parlay their discoveries into products that change the world.

In the past 40 years, Bayh-Dole has helped commercialize inventions ranging from Honeycrisp apples to Google’s original search algorithm.

By bringing early-stage research to private labs, the law also played a role in the development of more than 200 drugs and vaccines. Some policymakers have argued that some of those medicines are not adequately available to the public because of their high prices. They believe the government should “march-in” and require licensing of the patents behind those drugs so generic drug manufacturers can produce cheaper competing versions.

This is ironic, given that we are finally administering vaccines to end the pandemic. Without taxpayer support for early-stage research at universities, drug companies would have never been in a position to create lifesaving vaccines so quickly.

Drug companies won’t spend the billions of dollars it takes to commercialize federally funded research if there’s a risk the government will seize the fruits of their research. The result will be fewer new treatments for patients.

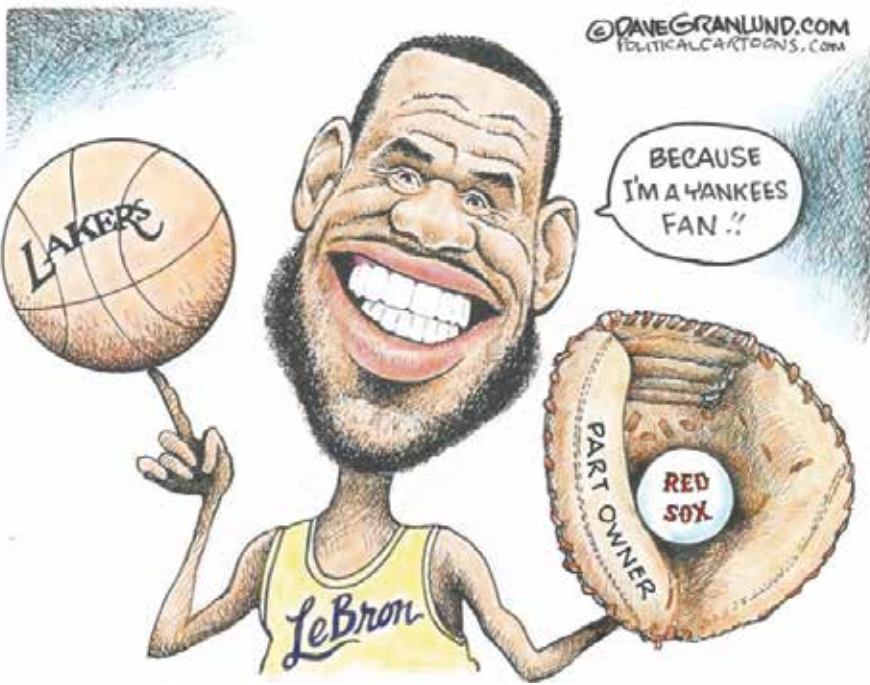
Consider what happened in 1989, when the National Institutes of Health adopted a policy calling for “reasonable” pricing by companies that licensed patents that benefited from government funding. The number of licensing agreements between universities and companies plummeted.

In 1995, NIH-funded research led to just 32 licensing agreements with private companies. That same year, the agency eliminated the pricing clause. Not surprisingly, the number of licensing agreements in 1996 more than doubled, to 87.

If the government takes away patent rights, then less federal research will be commercialized – and fewer new medicines will hit the market. That’s not an outcome that’s in the interests of patients.

The people of the United States need and deserve access to affordable medicines. But it is incredibly important to not destroy innovation in one of the last industries in the world where the United States still has a real edge.

Howard Dean, a physician, is the former chair of the Democratic National Committee and former governor of Vermont.



Fun with houseplants

Just about a month ago I decided to repot a number of my “houseplants.” I figured the timing was good, since before too long the plants would be responding to longer days with increased growth. They would relish new soil and more room for their roots to sprawl in the bigger pots I would provide. While I have never really felt that my outdoor “green thumb” has transferred to indoor plants, I’ve managed not to kill enough of them so that one morning of February vacation was spent with my hands in potting soil liberating them from a fate of being root bound in the same tired soil.

One of my favorite houseplants is the Gerber daisy. Most people think of this plant as a summer annual, and it technically is here in the northeast, but frugal Yankees (i.e. Mom and I) have been keeping them alive through the winter for years now. Its pretty pastel daisy-type flowers remind me of those the prankster clowns use to squirt water in the faces of unsuspecting folks. In our house we call it the “happy plant.” I had three good-sized pots of them, all with tired soil. It showed by how yellow-green the leaves were. I moistened my compost-based Coast of Maine potting soil and proceeded to pry the plants apart, giving the divisions a fresh pot and a splash of liquid fertilizer once back on the windowsill. I am happy to say I now have one flower and a few others awaiting in the crown! Success!

Three other plants typically grown as annuals were saved from winter’s chill and brought indoors as an experiment. One was a lobelia plant that grew in a ceramic pot by my front door all summer. Usually lobelias peter out during the dog days, but this newer variety kept right on blooming right through the heat. For the fun of it, I cut it back in late October and put it, pot and all in my mud room. Lo and behold, it started to grow. I provided it with light, some fresh soil and said liquid fertilizer, and it is actually sporting a few blossoms right now. I am only hoping it will be happy indoors for several more weeks; thankfully lobelias are fairly cold hardy so I can probably get it outside earlier than most flowering plants.

Another annual I overwintered is heliotrope. Given to me as a gift last summer, its purple, vanilla-baby powder scented flowers provided a olfactory pick-me-up whenever needed. Admittedly, this plant struggled over the winter but with fresh soil and a brighter window it is thriving once more. The same goes for a coleus that I got from a my friend Jean a year and a half ago. I decided take cuttings of all three to increase

my coffers and happily both the coleus and the lobelia have rooted. It’s been tricky to keep the almost furry heliotrope leaves from wilting while awaiting roots. More research necessary there.

Late last spring I made a mixed planter with succulent type plants for my porch.

I used what I had, including two tiny kalachoe plants rescued from where I don’t recall. They looked so pathetic that I planted them almost in the same hole to make one decent-sized plant. But alas, in just three months of good soil and a warm porch they tripled in size and by February were full of aphids. After a soapy bath they were separated, each given their own pot. Now, one has flower buds! I have read that kalanchoes

are easy to propagate. Simply take a cutting of terminal growth two to three inches long, stripping off all but the top 2 or 3 leaves. Allow the stem to callus and then insert into a free-draining type of potting soil, one comprised of peat moss and perlite is ideal. Begin checking for roots in about a month.

Another plant that faced true liberation a month ago was an amaryllis that I received in a fancy clear container. The bulb was waxed, or maybe even covered in some kind of plastic. Hard to tell.. All you had to do was put it on the shelf, no potting up required. Something did not set well with me about this fancy new modus...they want you to throw it away afterwards! But I kept my comment to myself, thanked the person who gave it to me and watched as it bloomed, nicely, but on a shorter stem than what I am used to. Once the flowers had passed it looked as though another stem wanted to put out flower buds, but it just sort of sat there. I decided I would operate, gently peeling the wax off the bulb. After planting in potting soil the amaryllis did bloom and has since put out healthy white roots this last month. Next it will grow a healthy crop of foliage then go dormant before blooming again next fall/winter.

It was a lot of fun to repot and experiment with my “houseplants.” Maybe I’ve had some success because not all of them were intentioned for the house all along. Or maybe my luck is changing!

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekenedy@turley.com with “Gardening Question” in the subject line.

IN THE GARDEN



Roberta McQuaid
Columnist



Courtesy photo

Julie and Tom on the summit of Mt. Bond, their 44th winter ascent.

23 miles of ‘fun’

Saving the best – and worst – for last hike of winter

By Julie Midura
Correspondent

When Tom and I lost our minds and decided to attempt to climb all 48 New Hampshire 4,000-foot mountains in winter, the Zealand/Bonds traverse was the one that made me loose sleep at night.

How on Earth would we be able to pull off THAT little miracle? Not that we’re “old” by any means – well, one of us isn’t anyway – but this is the BONDS we’re talking about! What kind of demented couple, one of whom is a senior citizen, decides it would be FUN to hike 23.2 miles over five, 4,000-foot mountains in a single day in the dead of winter?! And more importantly – WHY?!

Well, the answer is pretty obvious. We want to earn that cute little round patch that we get to sew onto our backpack once we complete them all. But in all seriousness, this crazy adventure has allowed Tom and I to move beyond our comfort zone and to challenge ourselves in ways we never dreamed possible.

So on the final Saturday of winter, we hiked what has been our most challenging hike so far – the Zealand/Bonds traverse. These mountains are in the heart of the 45,000-acre Pemigewasset Wilderness. The Bonds are among the most remote of the 4,000 footers, and as such, every trail that reaches their summits is a long and arduous one.

When we originally planned this hike, we envisioned sunny skies, temps in the 30s, minimal wind, and a solidly packed trail. What we actually encountered was nothing of the sort. The forecast called for wind chill temps in the negative 20s and sustained winds in the 35 mph range with gusts up to 50 mph.

Tom and I know our limits regarding wind speed and temperature and as such; We’re unwilling to take the risks that we were willing to take when we were younger. What can I say, it comes with age. Something called self-preservation.

We asked ourselves if it would be worth the potential suffering just to bag several peaks. After all, we began this quest to have fun and to challenge ourselves, not as a test to determine how much misery we could withstand. So we decided to go in spite of the wind chills predictions with the caveat that we would turn back if the conditions were too extreme to continue.

Snow was falling steadily and the wind was howling when we stepped out of our car near Zealand Road at 4:30 a.m. One of the drawbacks of winter hiking is that several of the mountains require a road walk just to get to the trailhead because some of the roads are not maintained in winter. On this particular hike, we needed to walk 3.7 miles on the road just to reach the trailhead.

We were able to wear micro-spikes on our feet for the road walk, but switched to snowshoes once we reached Zealand trail. The snow continued to fall, so we were forced to break trail through fresh snow that was anywhere between three inches to over a foot deep. Breaking trail is exhausting work, so Tom and I took turns taking the lead position.

Once we were above tree line, the combination of fresh snow and fierce wind erased all signs of the trail. We spent valuable time trying to find the path that is usually very obvious on a summer day. Based on the less than ideal conditions, we began to wonder if we’d have the stamina to complete the entire traverse, or if we’d need to turn back after reaching Zealand Mountain – our first mountain of the day.

But alas, there IS a God, because not only did the sun finally make an appearance, but about a half mile before we reached Zealand Mountain, two angels appeared from behind us – and they were wearing snowshoes! We stepped aside, enormously relieved to have someone in front of us breaking out the trail. We reached Mt. Zealand shortly after, then continued on.

The entire traverse is a blend of above tree line exposure intermixed with hiking in the shelter of the trees. When we reached the alpine zone on the shoulder of Mt. Guyot, we experienced the full onslaught of nature’s fury as the wind roared all around us. I braced myself a few times with my trekking poles to avoid being knocked off balance. If the hike had required several miles of hiking above tree line, we couldn’t have endured the strength of the wind, but knowing that we would periodically escape its wrath by hiking into the protection of the trees made it tolerable.

We hiked up West Bond next, followed by Mt. Bond. It was 3:30 p.m. when we reached Bondcliff – our final peak of the day. We had been hiking almost non-stop for the past 11 hours. As elated as we were to be standing on our final mountain of the day, we knew that we still had nine miles to go to get to our car. Thankfully, Bondcliff Trail was well packed out, so we were able to remove our heavy snowshoes and wear our spikes for the descent.

As we strapped our snowshoes onto our packs, I groaned under the added weight on my back. However, heavier packs mean lighter feet. Without heavy snowshoes on our feet, we practically flew down the mountain.

We arrived at the bridge that marks the end of the hike just as I was certain that I couldn’t take one more step. My legs were propelling me forward only out of sheer necessity. We crossed the bridge that leads to the parking lot at 7:30 p.m. – 15 hours from the time we started.

WE DID IT!

Twenty-three miles, five mountains, 15 hours. It’s amazing what the mind and body can do when the heart leads the way.

Peace, and hike on!

Julie Midura is a resident of Ludlow

Election letters to the editor welcome

The *Journal Register* welcomes readers to participate in this year’s election campaigns by writing letters to the editor for publication on these pages. Letters of up to 250 words from local residents endorsing candidates on the ballot or discussing campaign issues should be sent to The Journal Register, care of Turley Publications, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, faxed to 413-289-1977 or emailed to mharrison@turley.com. Please include a daytime telephone number for verification purposes (it will not be printed). Letters must be received by noon Monday to be considered for that Thursday’s newspaper. No attack letters will be printed. No letters written by candidates supporting their own candidacy will be printed. If the volume of letters received is larger than the space available in the newspaper, or if the letters become repetitive, the newspaper reserves the right to print a representative sample. No endorsement letters will be printed in the last edition before the election.

For more information, call editor Michael Harrison at 413-283-8393.

Campaign news

As part of its election coverage, the newspaper plans to print stories about contested races for Congress, state Senate, state House, district attorney and Governor’s Council during the weeks leading up to the election, as well as a question-and-answer voters guide. In order to ensure fairness to all candidates, no political press releases will be printed, nor will reporters cover political rallies or fundraisers.

Candidates who wish to further publicize their candidacy, beliefs and events may contact advertising, 413-283-8393 about paid advertising in The Journal Register.

Letters to the editor policy

Letters to the editor should be 250 words or less in length, and guest columns between 500-800 words. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require that the person submitting the opinion also include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must confirm authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, or defamation of character.

Please send opinions to:
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Letter to the Editor
24 Water St.,
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or by e-mail to:
mharrison@turley.com

The submission deadline for consideration is Monday at noon.

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SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

Claiming Social Security now to preserve savings

By Russell Gloor
Guest columnist

Dear Rusty: One of the big pieces of the Social Security puzzle that everyone seems to miss is the protection of other retirement funds. If I did not take Social Security, I would have to dip into my retirement savings to fund the early part of my retirement. I took Social Security at my full retirement age rather than wait, so I am preserving my retirement account that has historically been getting 8 to 9% interest over the last 30 years. Social Security will never give me anything close to those returns. Signed: Smart Investor

Dear Smart Investor: You are, of course, correct that preservation of retirement savings is important. It’s also correct that everyone’s personal financial situation is different. If your retirement nest egg has historically provided a return of 8 to 9% over the last 30 years and will continue to do so, then I believe you made the right choice by claiming at your full retirement age (FRA), and preserving those high-return investments.

But many are not as fortunate as you and have their nest egg sitting in low-interest IRAs and bank savings accounts, and those folks may have a different perspective. They may choose an option to delay claiming Social Security to get a higher monthly benefit, initially using some of their low-return savings, but al-

lowing them to preserve their overall savings much further into their retirement because of a higher Social Security benefit. And most often, continuing to work provides them added ability to delay claiming Social Security to get that higher benefit.

Personally, I do not advocate withdrawing from retirement funds in lieu of claiming Social Security. But I do suggest that waiting past FRA to claim a higher benefit may be wiser than claiming earlier and investing the Social Security money, trying to beat the 8% yearly benefit growth realized by waiting to claim. It’s an unfortunate reality that high-return/low-risk investments are very difficult to find these days, and most seniors are loathe to put their money in high-risk investments to get higher returns.

Again, everyone’s situation is different, and each must choose based upon their own circumstances. Many who contact us about their Social Security options intend to continue working beyond their full retirement age. Those folks might adopt a strategy where they delay past their FRA to get a higher Social Security benefit for the rest of their life, made possible because they are still working and earning (rather than withdrawing from investments). If they’re in good health and will achieve at least average life expectancy, they will not only enjoy a much higher monthly benefit, but they’ll also receive more in cumulative lifetime benefits by waiting longer to claim Social Security.

Finally, often lost in the argument to claim at or after FRA is that, for a married couple, a surviving spouse receives 100% of the benefit the deceased spouse was receiving at death. That surviving spouse benefit will either be a smaller FRA amount or a larger (e.g., age 70) amount, depending upon when the higher earning spouse claimed. Point is, if you are married, when you claim may also affect your spouse’s survivor benefit, so life expectancy of both spouses should always be included in the decision on when to claim. In any case, from what you’ve written I believe that your choice to claim at your FRA in order to preserve your high-return investments was a prudent move for your personal circumstances. And I admire the careful thought you put into that decision.

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Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.

LESSER | from page 1

up every day thinking about you and our communities and what we can do in the state senate and what state government, frankly, can do to deliver services and to make life a little bit easier. We do have brighter days ahead and 2021 is going to be a much more positive year than 2020. But there’s a lot we’ve got to do together to make sure that the recovery is not only fast, but is equitable and includes all our communities and all of our people.”

The first question, facilitated by McAuliff, was about the “bumpy and lumpy” rollout of the Mass. vaccination program.

“Well, it’s a very important question and we’ve gotten a lot of feedback from this,” Lesser said. “And I just want to first thank our constituents who really notified us about some of the issues of the vaccine rollout very early in the process. Our constituents are not shy and I appreciate that because the calls and the emails and just stopping me on the street or at the supermarket or just out and about gave me a really good eyes on the ground experience about what was happening with the vaccine rollout. An independent analysis by the Belfer Center at Harvard gave Massachusetts an ‘F’ and gave West Virginia an ‘A’ in the initial rollout. And part of the reason for that is shots were not getting into arms fast enough. And the tech and the logistics and the management around getting shots into arms was just completely inadequate. The website crashing was simply inexcusable – frankly embarrassing – for a state like ours that prides itself on technology and healthcare leadership.

But we’re focused on making it better moving forward. And I will say we’ve given pointed feedback to the governor and to the Department of Public Health about where there needed to be improvements. And I would also just point out, in addition to the advocacy in the bills we filed, I joined a very important new oversight committee on COVID-19, a joint committee between the House and the Senate laser focused on improving the immediate vaccine rollout, making sure it is equitable and including our underserved communities, in particular our Black and Hispanic communities that have historically faced disadvantages when accessing health care in our state.”

Lesser said the committee expected have Gov. Baker to appear at March 23 hearing by the new committee.

Local clinics

Lesser answered two related questions, about the community vaccine clinic in Longmeadow and why “a very robust public health plan in Massachusetts” wasn’t more help in the vaccine rollout, with one extended response.

“We’ve gotten a lot of feedback on this,” he said.

“It’s important for people to understand the legal and financial structure of how the vaccines are

coming to the state. There are a few different distribution channels for the vaccine. One is the federal retail pharmacy program. So these are the vaccine appointments that are popping up, for example, at Big Y, at CVS and Walgreens, at Walmart, at Stop and Shop – the same pharmacy you go to for a flu shot or for your regular prescription medication – those doses come directly from the federal government. So the state government has limited sort of control or exposure to that. Those are really just shipped directly from the vaccine producers via the federal government, directly to the pharmacies.

“The second way that vaccine doses have been getting out is through the state distribution. It was weekly. Now, it’s more than that. So the legislature, as a result, has had limited influence and has limited been able to give limited oversight over this process. So initially, the state was helping to distribute these vaccines through local clinics. A decision was made by the (Mass.) Department of Public Health to pull those doses from most of the local clinics and redirect those doses to the mass vaccination sites. The closest one for us is the Eastfield Mall. I was frustrated by it because I know so many of our local communities spent a lot of time and a lot of resources getting those clinics ready and set up. And right now they’re empty. So my hope is, is that we’re going to be able to get those doses back to local communities as we get more supply, because I feel strongly that as we get into the later stages of this, it’s local communities that know their populations the best and are going to have the best ability to, for example, do house visits to vaccinate homebound individuals, to reach out to somebody that might be hesitant and talk to them or walk them through the get them comfortable with taking the vaccine,” Lesser said.

“Our local fire departments, our local EMTs, our local community health folks know their neighborhoods and know their people the best. So we should be empowering them to help get the vaccine out rather than centralizing. I’m hopeful that we’ll be able to see those open.”

Economic recovery

Asked about the pandemic’s impact on small businesses, particularly restaurants, salons and other “customer-facing” shops, Lesser said the state’s response needs to consider the reality that up to 225,000 of that states lost jobs aren’t coming back.

“Those job losses are disproportionately in the wage-earning hourly workforce, disproportionately female because of the nature of the shutdowns and the nature of the impact of COVID-19. It hurt in particular preschools, daycares, health care jobs, restaurant jobs, service-oriented work, which is disproportionately female and also disproportionately men and women of color and immigrants. So we really need to make sure that our aid programs and our policy is

focused on where the impact has been most dramatic, and that also includes our small businesses,” Lesser said.

“We’ve worked with the administration on a very large – the largest of its kind in the country – aid program on top of the federal aid that has come in. We’ve created more than a \$600 million small business aid program targeted at small businesses and businesses that have been the most impacted by COVID-19 with a particular emphasis on minority businesses and immigrant owned businesses in our gateway cities, which of course includes Springfield and Chicopee in my district. In addition to that, actually, just today, hot off the presses, literally an hour ago, the Senate finalized a package of aid, including making TPP loans that came in to businesses through the CARES Act.”

One major aspect of that, Lesser said, is immediate tax relief for small businesses.

“They will not be subject to Massachusetts income tax. I think a very unfair situation was going to develop for small businesses that got TPP aid that then used that money to pay their workers, to keep people employed, to keep the lights on during a very difficult year were now retroactively going to be asked to pay a five percent tax on that money that they don’t even have anymore because they’ve paid it out to their employees,” he said.

“That was going to be an unfair situation. So we’ve (prevented) that. That’s going to be put on the governor’s desk next week. We’ve also frozen rate increases for unemployment insurance so that small businesses will not have been subjected to what have been a 60 percent increase in unemployment insurance rates. And very importantly, we’ve set up a new state level sick leave program so that people who either get COVID-19 or need to take time off to get a vaccine will have a fully paid program. It will not be paid by employers. It’s going to be paid by paid for by the state.

“In addition to that, we’ve done something very unique – I’m not aware of any other state that’s done this – but we are waiving the tax on the initial round of unemployment insurance checks that are our lowest income individuals have gotten. Those who are 200 percent or less below the poverty line. So this is really about helping the most vulnerable people in our community who have gotten that lifeline of the unemployment insurance. They shouldn’t really be paying state tax on that. I think that they should be keeping that and they should be using that to help pay their bills and pay for groceries and other necessities.”

Infrastructure

Although always interested in creating new jobs, the state, Lesser said, needs to grow its infrastructure so residents in Western Mass. can have more opportunities working remotely or commuting for higher-wage jobs as opposed to relocating.

“We know western Massachusetts and our communities here are great places to grow up. That’s why we’re here,” he said.

“They’re great places to raise families. We’ve got great communities. We’ve got good open space, great institutions, great museums, parks, you name it. But one of the things that we didn’t have was a good economy and fast paced job growth and access to the same economic opportunity that people in other places, especially the highly growing red hot economies to our east and Boston into our south and New York City saw. So as a result, a lot of people had to leave, especially our young people felt they had to leave our region in order to get a good job, in order to get a job that paid well with remote work can solve that because somebody can stay in Springfield, somebody can stay in Chicopee, they can stay in Longmeadow or Belchertown or Ludlow or Hamden, and they can still be connected to a job anywhere. And they can make a salary from a job anywhere.

“And they can, by the way, own a home here and pay taxes here and invest in their community here. So we’ve got to get the policy right, though, because we’ve got to make sure that it’s inclusive and that it’s empowering of the people that already live here rather than being a tool for gentrification or housing price spikes or other things that would crowd out, you know, our local community. And so that’s why you can’t think about it in a vacuum.”

McAuliffe prompted a discussion about municipal broadband and rail service.

“Look, when when COVID-19 is over we’re going to want to be together again. We’re going to want to work in groups again. We’re going to want to go to offices, but it’s probably not going to look the way it used to, which was, you know, a nine a five day a week, a nine to five commute into an office where you would sit at a desk, stay there for eight hours, 10 hours, and then go home. You can very easily see a scenario where someone could live in Springfield, they could be in Springfield schools. They could be paying taxes in Springfield. Maybe one day a week they’re in Boston for work or a couple of times a month they have to go to New York City or for a meeting or a couple of times a year. That’s where rail comes in, because you can take the train easily, you know, from Springfield to Boston, from Springfield to New York City, and now all of a sudden Western Mass. It changes our potential for growth, the kinds of jobs that we can attract here. It enhances the vibrancy of our economy in such dramatic ways. So I frankly feel very excited about the potential of this because I think that it really makes the case even stronger for all of these things we’ve already been working on, like intercity rail service and in and in the remote work and the and the Internet and broadband issues.”

Education

“I think most people agree that

we need to get kids back into the classroom,” Lesser said.

“But what do we need to do to make sure that return is done safely for not only the students, but their teachers as well? This is a fraught issue. And I just want to first say thank you to our educators and our teachers and our school professionals to have really just been through a lot. I mean, they didn’t sign up for this. And I’ve seen it with my own kids. You know, this was stressful for parents. This was stressful for kids. This is very, very hard and stressful for teachers.

And I mean, I think I have enough trouble on the Zooms with adults. I can’t imagine having a group of second graders that you’ve got to keep occupied on a Zoom.

“So I think we need to celebrate and lift up and show our appreciation for our educators and our and our administrators and everyone, the principals, everyone that’s worked so hard to do everything they possibly can to make this work. But I also think we need to acknowledge that obviously the the preference is not to have kids be remote. And as vaccines come out, as we move to a safer place with the vaccine, as we learn more about the science of COVID-19. Now, there’s much better information and peer reviewed research about how it spreads so we can plan and prepare. The kids have to transition back and in as quick away as possible. I think we can do both.”

A constituent asked Lesser for his opinions about the state education “commissioner’s decision to usurp local control and basically dictate that students need to go back to school and to build off that.” Springfield Education Association President Maureen Posner asked about potentially rolling back start dates to April 26 to give teachers more time to get their vaccinations.

“Think back to what I was saying earlier about the different distribution channels for vaccines,” Lesser said.

“The federal government 100 percent controls the distribution of vaccines directly to the retail pharmacies. So what President Biden did is through the CDC, they issued a directive that those retail pharmacies needed to include teachers on the priority list, which is something I applaud him for doing and should have been done, frankly, weeks ago. And that’s why so many of our teachers have been able to get vaccinated at CVS and in other retail pharmacies. We need to do more to get vaccines to teachers, including, I believe, on-site administration of vaccines for teachers. Frankly, as a parent, I would just feel more comfortable if the teachers at my children’s school were vaccinated.

I think every parent would would like to have teachers at their kids’ schools vaccinated. And by the way, the governor’s contention that we can’t do on-site is simply not true. We’ve been doing state administered on-site vaccine administration since the start of all of this. Our police and our firefighters were largely administering the vaccine at job sites. Nursing home staffs were administered, the vaccine at job sites, hundreds of public housing authorities or public housing complexes for seniors around the state were administered by onsite clinics supervised by the state, and our hospitals vaccinated their own workforce. So this idea that the state can’t or doesn’t know how to or can’t administratively do work site administration of vaccines at schools is just not correct.”

The very first question Lesser answered was from a constituent who asked, “It’s been a long year for a lot of people. But what is the last year been like for you and your family?”

“Well, I think the last year has been for my family what it’s been like for quite a lot of families,” Lesser said.

“I mean, certainly I have young kids. I have a seven-year-old and a four-year-old. And there was the stress that all of our families faced when their school closed and trying to figure out coverage and how that was going to work. My wife, who has her own busy career, saw that, of course and was disrupted along with so many other people at the beginning of the year. In many respects his past year was the worst of times in so many ways, but also some of the best of times. So I feel very fortunate and grateful that life slowed down a little bit, as I think it did for a lot of people. So we took a lot of family walks. I’ve had dinner with my two daughters almost every night, which is not something that we were able to do because of the distance with Boston and everything else in the past. So I appreciate and I and I’m so grateful for all the extra time we’ve been able to spend together, but also very much ready for us to get back to a little bit more of a normal routine like we had in 2019.

To watch or listen to the full town hall, which included questions and comments not included in this story, go to Lesser’s Facebook page or pscp.tv/EricLesser/1zq-JVXMzzZVKb.

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CLUES ACROSS
1. Volcanic crater
5. Long times
10. Swedish rock group
14. Having the means to do something
15. Rods or spindles
16. La ___ Tar Pits, Hollywood
17. Missing soldiers
18. Measuring instrument
19. All of the components considered individually
20. Play “___ Irish Rose”
22. Gene
23. Barrels
24. London-based soccer team
27. Feline
30. Breed of sheep
31. Body part
32. Doctors’ group
35. One who follows the rules
37. Cigarette residue

CLUES DOWN
38. Ancient Greek sophist
39. Polish yeast cakes
40. Promotional materials
41. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour
42. Completed perfectly
43. Photo
44. A peninsula in SW Asia
45. The common gibbon
46. Disfigure
47. Ribonucleic acid
48. Japanese honorific
49. Pieces of music
52. Expressed pleasure
55. Having ten
56. Type of sword
60. Humble request for help
61. Eating houses
63. Italian Seaport
64. Cain and ___
65. Measure the depth
66. U. of Miami’s mascot
67. Political outsiders
68. Greek sorceress
69. Body part

CLUES DOWN
1. Mother
2. Jewish calendar month
3. Jai ___, sport
4. Establish again
5. Swiss river
6. Racetrack wager
7. ___, but goodie
8. Closeness
9. Soviet Socialist Republic
10. At right angles to a ship’s length
11. Women’s undergarments
12. Mountain stream
13. Expresses pleasure
21. Painful places on the body
23. Automobile
25. Scandinavian god of battle
26. Expresses surprise
27. Secret political clique
28. Yields manila hemp
29. River in central Italy
32. Brain injury science acronym

CLUES DOWN
33. Mental illness
34. A person from Asia
36. Father
37. General’s assistant (abbr.)
38. Cooked or prepared in a specified style
40. Large terrier
41. Hillsides
43. Golf score
44. Not or
46. Type of student
47. Flower cluster
49. Closes tightly
50. Saudi Arabian desert
51. Famed vaccine developer
52. Multi-function radar (abbr.)
53. Actress Jessica
54. Pay attention to
57. Beloved big screen pig
58. ___ Clapton, musician
59. Take a chance
61. Cost per mille
62. Helps little firms

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413-279-2020
www.route20barandgrille.com
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Fri & Sat 4-10pm; Sunday 11:30am-7:00pm;
Sunday Brunch 11:30am-2:30pm

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413-543-0791
www.donovanspub.com
CURRENT HOURS: Thurs-Sat 11am-9pm;
Sun 9am-7pm; Sunday breakfast 9am - noon

◆ Venice Pizza & Grill
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Wilbraham, MA
413-540-8080
www.venicepizzagrill.com
OPEN: Tues-Thurs 10:45am-9:30pm
Fri & Sat 10:45am -10pm; Sun 11am-9pm
Closed Monday



Susy Cadieux, owner of Antiques & Uniques in Monson, decided to open a shop that sold not just antique furniture, butw other categories furniture and decor.



Turley Publications staff photos by Jonah Snowden
Antiques & Uniques recently opened at 170 Main St., Suite F, in Monson.

Antique furniture and unique products in one local setting

By Jonah Snowden
jsnowden@turley.com

MONSON – With the mission to provide the residents of Monson and surrounding areas a place to shop for antique furniture and unique items in one place, Monson resident Susy Cadieux decided to open a new store she named Antiques & Uniques.

Last October, Cadieux began looking for a space to open the antique and gift shop. Once coming across a location on Main Street, Cadieux said she changed her original plan. Initially looking to showcase antiques, after doing more research, she decided against opening a typical antique store.

Inside the shop customers will find multiple sections filled with different items for different types of customers who may want to put together a man cave, a garden area for their backyard and any number of motifs. Items range from birdhouses and gar-

dening utensils to teacups and antique furniture.

"In Monson and Palmer, besides Walmart and the (Dollar General), there's really not a lot of stores," Cadieux said.

"I figured if I could get the population of both people who want to look at antiques and the population of who want to buy new stuff and can get more clientele across those groups."

She also said the vintage items for sale can be refurbished and brought directly into the home for everyday use.

Since officially opening the store March 18, Cadieux said after she began posting about it on social media, she received lots of enthusiastic feedback.

"People have come in and said, 'this is exactly what the town needs,'" Cadieux said. "They love the variety in the store, which is fabulous. I've been pleasantly surprised and glad I brought it to Monson."

Another message Cadieux



Two rooms, with another the one in the works, provides a variety of unique items for a customers in one setting.

said she hopes to showcase through the store is for customers to understand the value of antique furniture.

"Kids today can go to IKEA and buy a piece of cardboard or come in and buy a really old piece of future and see its quality," Cadieux said.

Cadieux said she is also looking forward to running her business with family mem-

bers, including relatives Tammy Cadieux, Tarrah Girard and Bryanna Cadieux.

For more information on Antiques & Uniques, visit the shop's Facebook page, call 860-716-5069 or email antiquesanduniquesma@gmail.com. The shop is located at 170 Main St., Suite F, Monson and open Thursday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

RAIL | from page 1

Comerford (Hampshire, Franklin, and Worcester), Rebecca Rausch (Norfolk, Bristol, and Middlesex) and Representatives Brian Ashe (Second Hampden), Jake Oliveira (Seventh Hampden), Kelly Pease (Fourth Hampden) and Todd Smola (First Hampden), the bill also directs MassDOT to "conduct an economic impact analysis on the economic benefits and transformational impact" of the rail line, which would include a depot in Palmer, and seek out additional funding sources."

Crunching numbers

Early in the steering committee meeting, members discussed the critical cost-to-benefit-ratio in a MassDOT study completed last year. Widely panned as inaccurate by passenger rail advocates because of the method MassDOT used to arrive at its figure, the CBR is typically a deciding factor in whether or not projects are eligible for federal funding. The East-West Rail is projected to come with a price tag of at least \$2.4 billion – and perhaps as much as \$4 billion.

"The economic impact analysis – that could be a positive and make something happen that helps allay the CBR," Hood said.

Whatever the mechanics, steering committee members said they think the stars could be aligning for the project. The Biden administration has promised a massive national infrastructure project and is known as a fan of passenger rail. His Transportation Secretary, Pete Buttigieg, is a close friend of Lesser's from their college days and Massachusetts has some influential voices in congress, including House Ways and Means Committee Chair Richard Neal and Sen. Ed Markey, who serves on two transportation-related subcommittees. Both have gone on record as in favor of creating the new passenger rail line.

"We should leverage our federal partners when there's an opening for that," steering committee member Jessica Sizer, a Palmer Town Council member who was appointed as the town of Barre administrator nearly a year ago.

Steering committee member and Palmer Community Development Director Sarah Szczebak, said she learned while applying for federal bridge grants that "rail projects are eligible" and was surprised to discover the "grades" assigned to various projects, which include their CBRs, don't always carry as much weight as having a well-placed advocate.

"If someone gets in their ear and says 'I want this project in Massachusetts,' you get on the list whether you scored high or not," she said.

"It sounds like you can easily overcome (an unfavorable CBR) if you have a strong enough champion Washington."

It's also possible that MassDOT will revisit the CBR. The most recent study recommended a second look along with other continued fact-finding.

"The MassDOT study suggested there would be state officials working with federal officials looking at this bene-

fit-to-cost ratio because the project is (coming up short of) meeting the required ratio for funding," Linda Leduc, Palmer's town planner, and a steering committee member, said.

Hood said he's encouraged by all the tailwinds and reminded the rest of the committee there is \$50 million in the state budget for the project just waiting to be tapped.

"Now, \$50 million doesn't get us a train, but it does cover things like planning and preparatory work of some sort – if they decide to appropriate and spend it," he said.

"And we can start small. It doesn't have to be that two to four billion. It can be something smaller to get the project going."

Leduc said another encouraging sign is a call she had last week with an aide in Neal's office that confirmed "Congressman Neal not only understands our need for bridge repair but is very aware of the rail project. I thought that was promising," Leduc said.

"Hopefully," she added, not entirely half-joking, "we get some bridge money too!"

Depot planning

Last month, Palmer Town Council tasked the committee with shifting its focus to what Town Manager Ryan McNutt described as a "station site committee" and during last week's meeting committee members rehashed some past studies and discussed what they need to move forward.

Scarlet Lamothe, a committee member who wasn't in last week's meeting, said in past meetings and forums that her family's restaurant – Steaming Tender, inside Palmer's original depot – is interested in having the platform for a new passenger rail line built nearby. Her family even purchased more property in the vicinity that could be used for parking, she said. Hood referenced those comments as an example of the mindset the steering committee should adopt.

"We're at that point where we should think 'what if this were to happen?' and figure out the factors of what goes into this decision," Hood said.

"We probably want to have a platform compatible with Amtrak," he said because of potential ties to the Springfield-New Haven line now in service. At some point, Hood said, the town and committee will likely need to contract with a consultant to help sort through the options available.

"All these technical details, we need to resolve," he said.

Leduc estimates it would cost between \$50,000 and \$75,000 to hire a consultant.

"I'll keep my eye out for funding sources in the meantime but I'm sure there's funding out there," she said. "There is plenty of grant money out there, but it's probably something we'll tackle next fiscal year."

Committee member Anne Miller suggested money from the Mass. Transportation Bond Gov. Baker signed last year could be used to pay for it.

The committee also plans to follow up on a suggestion from a prior meeting to start researching how other towns built new rail platforms. One thing is clear: Committee members plan on moving the project forward at every opportunity.

"We need to stay on MassDOT's radar," Hood said.

Filing for town elected offices underway

Anyone interested in running for any of the townwide offices that will be decided by the June 8 election can begin filing their nomination papers.

One seat each will be available for the following positions:

Councilor at Large/District 2; Councilor/District 3 Councilor/Planning Board and School Committee. Each term is three years.

Candidates must be registered to vote in Palmer by May 19 to be eligible. There is no filing fee and papers must be returned by April 15.

To obtain the nomination papers and for more information, call the Town Clerk at 283-2608.

Monson election filing ends April 15

Want to run for office?

The annual Monson town election will be held 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, June 8, at Memorial Hall.

Candidates can run for the following offices:

Board of Selectmen, one seat, three-year term
School Committee, two seats, three-year term
School Committee, one seat (to fill the year remaining of a vacated term)
Highway Surveyor, one seat, three-year term

Board of Assessors, one seat, three-year term

Water and Sewer Commissioner, three-year term

Cemetery Commissioner, three-year term

Parks and Recreation Commissioner, three-year term

To obtain nomination papers, call 413-267-4115 or email townclerk@monson-ma.gov. The deadline to file nomination papers is Thursday, April 15.



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BASKETBALL



Girls basketball returns to action

MONSON – After sitting out the winter season, sports returned to Monson High School with the girls in action last Tuesday and Thursday against Belchertown. Monson won both games, including a 36-32 win last Tuesday evening. In the win, Olivia Chrzan scored 15 points while Sydnie DeVries contributed 11 points.

Photos by Gregory A. Scibelli
Olivia Chrzan makes her way down the court.



Sydnie DeVries hustles to drive to the hoop.



Tennessee Murphy starts a play for the Mustangs.



It's a tight spot for Rylee Bonneau to try and get around the Belchertown defense.



Olivia Chrzan makes her way around a Belchertown guard.

COLLEGE

Conference moves forward with spring competition

WESTFIELD – The eight Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference (MASCAC) Presidents announced today that they have approved a plan to have competition for the spring sports of baseball, men's golf, women's lacrosse, softball and men's and women's outdoor track and field. The presidents have also approved the continuation of practice for fall and winter MASCAC teams subject to health and safety, testing and tracing protocols in place to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

"The MASCAC continues to meet regularly with the presidents, athletic directors, athletic trainers and other essential staff as we bring our student-athletes back to the playing field, safely, while adhering to all state, federal and NCAA guidelines," said MASCAC Commissioner Angela Baumann. "It is our intention to have these athletic events as long as the conditions allow us to move forward safely. The MASCAC office and eight MASCAC Presidents will be monitoring practices and competition to ensure the continued health and safety of our student-athletes and staff."

COLLEGE | page 2

BASEBALL

Valley Wheel Baseball seeking new talent

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – The regular season is just a month away and the members of the Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League are excited to be playing baseball again.

Last year, the season was cancelled once parks were closed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

An attempt was made by commissioner Jim Nason to hold a short season once modified rules for activity were allowed, but there was not enough interest to keep the league operating.

Now, the league is gearing for a full season, but between circumstances changing during the pandemic and the modifications currently in place for sports the league is definitely in need of more baseball talent.

Nason is hoping "quarantine fatigue" and the need to get outdoors and get active will draw new players to

BASEBALL | page 8



Valley Wheel Baseball is ready to get started again. Tryouts were held last summer before the season ultimately had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.

File photos

AUTO-RACING

Purse structure announced for 2021 season

WATERBURY, VT and NA-PLES, ME -- American-Canadian Tour (ACT) and Pro All Star Series (PASS) officials have announced the Sunoco Modifieds, Late Models, SK Light Modifieds, Limited Sportsman, and Mini Stocks at each event. All five divisions will compete as part of the six-race oval track event schedule at Thompson, which begins with the annual Icebreaker on April

10 and 11. The schedule also includes four Wednesday night races in the summer (June 16, July 7, Aug. 11 and Sept. 15) and the Sunoco World Series (Oct. 8 to 10).

"When Tom (Mayberry) and I agreed to take on this role at Thompson, one of our priorities was posting a fair purse for all divisions," ACT managing partner Cris Michaud said. "I raced for 20+ years, and I experienced firsthand the value of an extra dollar. We've put together a competitive structure that rewards everyone who shows up and will help teams get their cars to the track."

The roar of the Sunoco Modifieds will return to the high-banks with drivers chasing a \$1,500 winning prize for their 30-lap feature races. With \$900 on the line for second, \$600 for third and \$200 to start each race, the Sunoco Modified purse itself rises over \$8,500. Some of the top names in local Modified racing are expected to compete, including Keith Rocco, who looks to continue his dominance of the competitive class on Thompson's 0.625-mile oval. Other names expected for the opener include Troy Talman, a former Thompson winner.

RACING | page 8

FOOTBALL



Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com
Jacob Mastalerz makes a juke move before running up the field.

Panthers offense sparks late in win



Jack Letendre winds back to pass.

CHICOPEE – It's not often Palmer meets Chicopee in football, but in the pandemic version of Western Mass. high school football, the two teams meet in the season opener last Saturday afternoon. Offense was at a premium for three quarters until Palmer scored three times in the fourth quarter for a 32-0 shutout. Jack Letendre passed for 52 yards and ran for 45. Jacob Mastalerz ran 19 times for 84 yards while Xavier Nava went for 80 yards on 14 carries. While Letendre had three interceptions, Chicopee was unable to do anything with it. Steven Matta had 32 yards receiving while Chicopee's rushing attack could not mount any significant yardage.



Chance Lee emerges from the pack on a run.



Jaden Nava attempts to catch a pass in the air.



Xavier Nava tries to break up a pass.

Sign-ups now open for Quabbin Area Little League

BARRE – The Quabbin Area Little League baseball/softball organization has announced sign-ups are now open. You can go to www.quabbinll.com through April 1 to sign up. The costs for baseball are as follows: T-Ball - \$50, Youth Minor - \$65, Minor Kid Pitch - \$75, and Major Kid Pitch - \$85. The softball costs are: 8U Instructional - \$50, 10U Minor Kid Pitch - \$65, 13U Major Kid Pitch - \$85. There are \$10 discounts for multiple family member registrations and financial assistance is available for those in need.

There are also volunteer opportunities available. Help the league by coaching as a head or assistant coach, volunteer to assist with field maintenance, or many other tasks that help the entirely volunteer-run organization operate. Have questions about registering or volunteering? Email qalld3ma@gmail.com for more information.

Sign up for Quabbin Valley Baseball League

REGION – The Quabbin Valley Baseball League is an age 28-and-over league which plays its games Sundays at 10 a.m. beginning in late April and concluding in late August. It is a six-team league and a 15-game schedule with all teams getting at least one play-off game at the end of August.

The league is seeking new players to join in the fun. The cost to play in 2021 is \$192.50 and registration can be found at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. Games are mostly being played this year in Easthampton and South Hadley. Players who wish to pitch in the league must be 30-years-old.

Sign-ups are active and players

who are not already on a team will be placed in a draft, currently scheduled to take place on Sunday, April 11.

The league's first games are tentatively scheduled for Sunday, April 25. For the 2021 season, there is a mask-wearing rule, as well as modifications that prohibit any type of spitting or close contact, and players are required to take out all trash they bring in with them. The league allows the use of BBCOR-certified -3 bats as well as wood bats. Games are nine innings and all players who participate get to hit and play the field. For more information or to contact someone from the league, go to the league's website.

COLLEGE ■ from page 7

It will remain the decision of each member institution to determine if they can safely participate in intercollegiate athletics this spring and in which sports they will permit competition. These decisions will be made in consultation with campus health professionals and the MASCAC Commissioner.

The presidents have approved a conference schedule where the institutions will play the same school each week in baseball, softball and women's lacrosse. In addition, the membership has approved a men's golf and outdoor track and field championship. Additionally, the

presidents have authorized institutions to schedule non-conference contests, provided all non-conference teams follow prescribed MASCAC health and safety guidance and protocols. Institutions will not be traveling to compete against teams out of state.

As the MASCAC teams continue to participate in athletic activities, it is the continued responsibility of all student-athletes and staff to stay diligent in their safety efforts on and off the field of play. Individual member institutions reserve the right to halt competition if the health of the campus community is put at risk. In the event of an increase of COVID-related cases on any of

our campuses, the schedules may be adjusted, which might include stoppage of play.

"The presidents are excited to move forward with plans for spring sports competition," said Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts President James Birge, Chair of the MASCAC Council of Presidents. "As we plan for spring sports competition, we will continue to fine-tune protocols to ensure the safety of student-athletes, coaches, staff and the campus communities," said President Birge.

Consistent with state restrictions on gathering limits, spectators will not be permitted at MASCAC contests at this time. This policy may be revisited for

outdoor sports if conditions improve and subject to state and local health authorities' guidance. For the enjoyment of family, friends and fans of our student-athletes, the MASCAC will continue to livestream contests on MASCAC.tv.

Throughout the 2020-21 academic year, the MASCAC will be celebrating its' 50th anniversary with special features, facts and trivia commemorating the event. Our conference has a rich history of success on the playing field and in the classroom. Over the academic year, the conference will be highlighting the student-athletes, teams, coaches, and administrators from the last 50 years.

Smola supports bill expanding mail-in voting option until June 30

BOSTON – State Rep. Todd M. Smola (R-Warren, Ranking Member, Committee on Ways & Means) recently supported legislation that would provide a temporary three-month extension of the state's mail-in voting law, moving the sunset date from March 31 to June 30.

House Bill 73, An Act further providing for early voting by mail, was engrossed by the House on March 1 and enacted on March 11. Representative Smola said the extension is needed to accommodate the large number of municipal elections that are scheduled to take place this year between April and June. The bill, which has also been enacted by

the Senate, is now on Governor Charlie Baker's desk for his review and signature.

"Mail-in voting will allow people to safely vote in their local elections while we are still facing the pandemic," said Representative Smola.

House Bill 73 is the latest in a series of bills that have been passed by the House and Senate over the last 12 months to help ensure Massachusetts residents can safely exercise their right to vote during the ongoing COVID-19 global pandemic. In March of 2020, legislation was approved allowing cities and towns to postpone municipal elections and caucuses until a date certain fall-

ing on or before June 30, 2020, and authorizing early voting by mail using no-excuse absentee ballots.

In July of 2020, the House and Senate granted additional options to voters, including an expansion of mail-in voting and early in-person voting for the 2020 state primary and general elections. Most recently, during fiscal 2021 budget debate in November, the Senate proposed extending early mail-in voting to June 30, but budget conferees opted to roll that date back to March 31.

During floor debate, the House concurred with a Senate amendment that would ensure

that voters who are blind, visually impaired or have a disability that makes it difficult or impossible to effectively access a paper vote by mail ballot can request an accommodation from their local election official by phone or electronically. Such requests must be submitted no later than four business days before the election, and local election officials will be required to make "reasonable efforts to grant accommodations to the voter" once a request is received.

For additional information please contact Smola at Todd. Smola@mahouse.gov or 617-722-2100.

Valley Press Club scholarships available for journalism students

SPRINGFIELD – The Valley Press Club, based in Springfield, will award up to six \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors in Western Massachusetts and Northern Connecticut who are interested in pursuing a career in journalism.

The Valley Press Club Scholarships, funded by contributions and dues to the Press Club, are for students planning careers in print, online or broadcast journalism.

The Republican Scholarship, funded by The Republican, is for students living within the newspaper's circulation area who are planning careers in print journalism.

The 22News Scholarship, funded by WWLP-22News, is for students planning careers in broadcast journalism.

The Edward J. Malley Jr. Memorial Scholarship, established in memory of a chief photographer for the Springfield Newspapers, is for students planning careers in photojournalism.

The Rhonda Swan Memorial Scholarship, established in memory of the award-winning journalist, editor and author, is for students who are underrepresented, in the Springfield area, and planning careers in journalism.

The Al Jaffe Scholarship, funded by Al Jaffe, the Valley Press Club's first scholarship recipient in 1964, who retired in 2015 as vice president of talent negotiation and production recruitment at ESPN, is for students planning careers in broadcast journalism or sports journalism.

Primary emphasis is placed on career goals, writing ability, scholastic aptitude and overall achievement as measured by an applicant's high school transcript, class rank, academic awards, SAT scores and extracurricular activities.

Scholarship applications are available at www.ValleyPressClub.com, high school guidance offices, or by emailing NTassinari@TheBigE.com. Applications may be sent by mail to Noreen Tassinari, VPC Scholarship Chair, Eastern States Exposition, 1305 Memorial Ave., West Springfield, MA 01089 or electronically to NTassinari@TheBigE.com. The deadline for submissions is April 15. Over the course of five decades, The Valley Press Club has presented over \$130,000 in scholarships to eligible students.

The Valley Press Club consists of active and retired journalists and public relations professionals from corporate and nonprofit organizations.

Turleysports

Athlete of the Week

Olivia Chrzan
Monson High School

In Monson's first sports game of any kind since the fall, Chrzan led with 15 points for girls basketball last week in a win over Belchertown. To nominate someone for Athlete of the Week, contact Managing Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at 413-283-8393 ext. 258 or send an e-mail to gscibelli@turley.com.

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Submitted photo

Information has been released for racing purses for the 2021 season.

RACING ■ from page 7

The Late Models, which will again follow ACT Tour rules — including the addition of the new Hoosier tire — will chase \$1,200 to win. As part of a purse better than \$7,000 throughout the field, Late Model drivers will open the season with a 40-lap special at the Icebreaker. They will continue to thrill Thompson fans with some of the top competitors from across New England. Names like Woody Pitkat, who swept both races in 2020, along with Nick Johnson, defending ACT Tour Rookie of the Year Derek Gluchacki and more will be in competition.

The Limited Sportsman are set to return with a purse over \$3,000 of their own and \$350 on the line to win. Known as one of the most exciting divisions at Thompson each year, the Limited Sportsman keep fans on the edge of their seat with two, and often three-wide action throughout the field.

Early entries for the season include former Thompson champions Kyle Gero and Larry Barnett, along with former Seekonk Speedway Sportsman champion Corey Fanning. At the Icebreaker, Limited Sportsman drivers may also take the opportunity to compete in a 8-Cylinder Open Street Stock

open on Saturday, which pays \$1,000 to win.

Rising over \$3,000, the SK Light Modified purse includes another \$350 to win, with \$250 for second and a strong distribution of funds throughout the field. As a division that puts some of the youth of Modified racing and veterans together, it's expected to be another stout year.

The Mini Stock thunder will return to Thompson with feature races set for \$200 to win and over \$1,600 in presented awards. Early entries for the season include Thompson veterans Russ Barboza, Tommy Silva and former division champion Steve Michalski.

Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park opens its 82nd season of oval track racing with the Icebreaker on Saturday, April 10 and Sunday, April 11. The 10-division card includes the \$10,000-to-win Icebreaker 125 for the Thompson Outlaw Open Modified Series, the PASS Super Late Models, and five Thompson weekly divisions. The 8-Cylinder Street Stock Open, NEMA Lites, and EXIT Realty Pro Truck Challenge round out the card. An optional Test N' Tune practice day is slated for Friday, April 9 with all Icebreaker divisions welcome.

BASEBALL ■ from page 7

tryouts when they start next weekend.

Tryouts for the league will take place Saturday, April 3, and the next two Sundays, April 11 and 18.

There are normally six teams in the league and the hope is to continue to have that tradition as players begin to make their way out to the fields. The normal Valley Wheel season is 15 games beginning April 25 this year and going until the end of July. The league plays nine-inning games, allowing all participants an opportunity to get plenty of at-bats and lots of time in the field.

The top four teams in the league make the playoffs and the semifinals and finals are held in the first two weeks of August. The schedule also features a couple of weeknights games and a special Mother's Day weekend Saturday game.

There are still modified rules for adult baseball under the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, which requires mask-wearing, social distancing when possible, and no spitting among the habit baseball players

are not allowed to engage in. While the game play is largely the same, the mask-wearing rule was one that was the subject of controversy last summer and ultimately led to the cancellation of the shortened season.

With vaccinations in Massachusetts clearing one million people and the state entering Phase 4 of the re-opening plan earlier this week, Nason is hopeful the restrictions will ease as the season goes on, especially as it relates to gathering.

Comradery is one of the staples of the league, which has usually included tailgating after games. That is a practice that will also have to be on hold until restrictions lift.

For more information on getting involved in adult baseball, go to www.valleywheelbaseball.com. To play in the league, you must be 28-years-old before June 1. In order to participate in the league as a pitcher, you must be 30-years-old before June 1. Players can participate in at least one of the three tryouts dates, usually held at Blunt Park, and then a draft is held prior to the start of the season.



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• Providing educational guidance to assist adult learners in meeting their educational goals.

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DEATH NOTICES

Joan L. Brooks, 84

Died: March 18, 2021
Funeral Services: 11 a.m. March 27 at Beers & Story Funeral Home, Palmer

Theresa M. Coffey (O'Connell), 94

Died: March 19

Ronald S. Midura, 71

Died: March 17, 2021
Graveside Service: 10 a.m. March 26 at Saints Peter & Paul Cemetery

Wayne Thomas Peck, 73

Died: March 16, 2021
Funeral Services are private

Barbara L. Soutiere (Carter), 90

Died: March 21, 2021
Memorial Service will be private

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Journal Register

O B I T U A R I E S

Joan L. Brooks, 84

Joan L. Brooks, 84, of Bondsville, passed away peacefully in the comforts of her home surrounded by her family on Thursday, March 18, 2021.

Born in Boston on August 20, 1936, she was the daughter of the late Frank and Verva (Rorke) Macumber. As a child she attended Hitchcock Academy in Brimfield and went on to be a member of the first class to graduate from Tantasqua Regional High School, Sturbridge. Joan was employed for CBIS Manufacturing in West Brookfield for 24 years, retiring in 2007. She returned yearly to attend the Holiday party.

In her earlier years, Joan enjoyed dancing, crocheting and then camping each summer with Homer and their dachshunds, Princess and Bandit. At home they enjoyed sharing treats with the neighborhood dogs as they

walked by. She loved to invite her family and friends, along with new acquaintances to dinner to get to know them. She enjoyed watching "Dancing with the Stars," cooking shows and "Blue Bloods."

Joan will be dearly missed by all who knew her, including her loving children, Tammy Whitcomb (Wendell) of Charlton, Sherry Lincoln (Russell) of Wyoming, Kevin Gadaire (Kelly) of Otis, daughter-in-law Lisa Gadaire of Maine, Roberta Tibbetts of Brookfield, Cindy Givens and Clifford Brooks of Florida, Linda Salls of Colorado, Marjorie Clark of S.C., Ralph Brooks (Dreama) of Colorado, and her many, many grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and



extended family members and friends.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by her loving husband, Homer Brooks in 2019; her three sons, Steven, Thomas and Keith Gadaire; as well as her two siblings, Dan and Maxine Macumber.

Visitation will be 9-11 a.m. Saturday, March 27, at Beers & Story Funeral Home Palmer followed by a service beginning at 11 a.m. Burial to immediately follow at the Brimfield Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Shriners Hospital for Children, 516 Carew St. Springfield MA or to a charity of your choice.

Theresa M. Coffey (O'Connell), 94

Theresa M. Coffey (O'Connell), 94, of Lord's Point, Stonington, Conn., passed into her heavenly home on Friday, March 19, 2021.

A Memorial Mass and burial will take place in April at a date to be determined.

Theresa was born in 1926 in Cambridge to Daniel and Helen (Murphy) O'Connell. She lived in Monson, for 40 years before moving to Stonington in 1993.

She was predeceased by her husband, Dr. William H. Coffey, Jr., and her siblings Arthur, Fred, Joe, Bill and Gertrude (Lombardo) O'Connell.

Bill and Theresa were parents to six children: Pat Mayo (Wayne) of Springfield, Beth Musante of Chicopee, Bill Coffey (Linda) of Stonington, Conn., Dan Coffey (Dottie) of Stonington, Rosemary Kelley-Coffey (Terry) of Stonington, and Paul Coffey of Shirley. She is survived by seven grandchildren: Christine Tomlin (Paul) of Manchester, Conn., Hunter Long of Stonington, Zachariah Kelley of Stonington, Theresa Pendant (Ryan) of Northridge,

Calif., Mark Musante of Cromwell, Conn., Steven Musante (Haley) of Northampton, and Peter Musante (Ashley) of Seattle. Theresa was the proud great-grandmother of Junia and Abigail Pendant of Northbridge, David Schwartz of Manchester, and William Schwartz of Clayton, N.C. She will also be missed by many nieces and nephews.

For many years, Theresa spent the winters in St. Augustine, Fla., where she had many friends, as well as several nieces and nephews who watched over her.

She loved to play bingo, make lamps and windows out of stained glass, and sew blankets and quilts for family and for hospitalized children. Theresa also loved to play cards and board games with family. She loved boating, fishing and swimming in the ocean. For many years, she danced away Sunday afternoons with friends and family at Skippers Dock restaurant.



In their younger years, Theresa and Bill were avid ballroom and square dancers. They golfed and won several awards at The Quaboag Country Club in Monson. Once her children were school-aged, Theresa decided to further her

education and earned a B.A. in Education at Westfield State University, and an M.A. in Special Education at American International College. She taught at Monson Developmental Center, Monson for 15 years.

The family gives heartfelt thanks to Dottie Coffey who has been Theresa's loving, compassionate caregiver day and night for many years. Dottie's devoted care made it possible for Theresa to stay in the home she loved.

Goodbye to our wonderful, caring mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother who loved and was deeply loved by so many. We will all miss her smile, her laugh, and her hugs!

Ronald S. Midura, 71

AGAWAM — Ronald S. Midura, 71, passed away March 17, 2021, at Baystate Medical Center.

Born Oct. 12, 1949 in Palmer, he was the son of Stephen J. and Eunice M. (Brown) Midura. Ronald grew up in Palmer and proudly served his country in the Massachusetts Air National Guard and as a member of the Air Force Reserve. Ronald's family owned the Palmer Bowling Alley and he continued to work there until its closing. He also worked for Baystate Health Systems in information systems.

Besides bowling, Ronald loved to golf and play racquetball.

Ronald is survived by his children, Steven Midura and spouse David Midura-Oliveria of Tampa, Fla., and Melissa (Midura) Waite and spouse Sarah Waite of Agawam.

He also leaves two grandchildren, Trevor Midura and Sadie Gilmartin, along with step granddaughter, Chloe Strom, former wife, Shirley (Bigos) Midura, and dear friend Marian



Coupal. Ronald was predeceased by his parents and brother, David Midura.

Visitation will be held 5-7 p.m. March 25 at the Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home with a graveside service at 10 a.m. at Saints Peter & Paul

Cemetery on March 26.

Donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association in his name. For details, please visit beersandstory.com.

Wayne Peck, 1947 – 2021

WALES – Wayne Thomas Peck, 73, passed away on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at Baystate Medical Center.

Wayne was born in Ludlow on July 15, 1947, a son of the late Earl and Evelyn (Kolhepp) Peck and was a graduate of Tantasqua Regional High School. After graduating, Wayne enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served honorably during the Vietnam War and attained the rank of sergeant. Wayne worked for many years in the Springfield area as a drug and

alcohol counselor helping others overcome difficult life issues.

Most recently Wayne was working at Foxwoods Resort and Casino, where he worked in event sales and loved being around the high energy atmosphere. Wayne enjoyed riding his motorcycle and taking trips all over New England and to Canada. He had a wonderful sense of humor, which he maintained throughout his life and his timing was superb.

Wayne is survived by his devoted husband, John Wolanski

of Wales; his brother Barry Peck of Holland; two nephews, Scott Dunham of Ala.; and Eric Dunham of Colorado Springs. He was also predeceased by his sister, Dawn Cortis. Wayne leaves behind his beloved dog and companion Daisy Mae.

Funeral services are private and under the professional care of Lombard Funeral Home, Monson. Visit lombardfuneralhome.com for more details and to share online condolences.

O B I T U A R I E S

Barbara L. (Carter) Soutiere, 89

PALMER — Barbara L. (Carter) Soutiere, 89, passed away peacefully on March 21, 2021, surrounded by her loving family.

She was born in Holyoke to the late Francis and Eleanor Guimond Carter on Oct. 17, 1930. She leaves her late brother Robert F. Carter. Barbara was a graduate of the American Academy of Ballet in 1949, to later become a ballerina with Radio City Music Hall.

She always had the biggest smile on her face at all times while doing what she loved to do and that was dancing where ever she was. She had also appeared as a dancer, alongside of

her former dance partner Paul Haakon, on one of the very first episodes of the "Milton Berle Show" on Oct. 5, 1948. Later on she found the love of her life, the late Henry Richard Soutiere, and were married for a wonderful 44 years.

She leaves four wonderful children: Wendy and her husband Wayne Erickson with whom she had lived with in Palmer; April Johnson of San Diego, Calif.; Henry Peter and his wife Mara Soutiere of Boulder, Colo.; and William and his wife Sherri Soutiere of Vineland, N.J. She was



a loving grandmother to seven grandchildren and also had nine great-grandchildren with one on the way. She also leaves several nieces and nephews and cousins.

The memorial service will be private.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Baystate State Health Hospice, Springfield, Mass.

Beers & Story Palmer Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements and services (beersandstory.com).

Police/Fire

Police Logs

PALMER PD

The Palmer Police Department responded to several hundred calls and made three arrests or issued summons for arrests March 16-23. Those arrested will appear at the Palmer District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Tuesday, March 16

Shawn E. Greaney, 35, of 1025 Central St. Apt. #M, Palmer was arrested at 8:20 p.m., on Central Street in Palmer on charges of a warrant and possession of a Class B drug.

Monday, March 22

Steven Lee Quentin Rhodes, 35, of 25 Off Lariviere St., Three Rivers, was arrested at 10:03 a.m.,

on charges of disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

MONSON PD

The Monson Police Department made nine arrests or summons for arrests March Those arrested will appear at the Palmer District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Sunday, March 14

Timothy Michael Taylor, 33, of 199 Allen St., E. Longmeadow, was arrested at 4:44 p.m., on charges of operating under the influence of drugs; negligent operation of a motor vehicle; possession of a Class B drug and possession of a Class E drug.

Tuesday, March 16

James Edward West, 23, of 370 Springfield St., Palmer, was arrested at 9:09 p.m., on a WMS warrant.

Friday, March 19

Brandon D. Anderson, 30 of 55 Leitch St., Springfield, was arrested at 8:07 p.m., on charges of possession to distribute a Class B drug; possession of a Class B drug; carrying a dangerous weapon and a default warrant.

Saturday, March 20

Kevin John Le Claire, 48, of 46 Pinewood Rd., Ludlow, was arrested at 12:57 a.m., on charges of operating under the influence of liquor; negligent operation of a motor vehicle and destruction of property +1200, Wanton.

Fire Logs

PALMER

The Palmer Fire Department responded to 13 calls March 3-8:

On Tuesday, March 16, at 10:51 a.m., the department responded to a call, requesting a smoke removal on North Main Street. The department returned to service at 11:31 a.m.

On Wednesday, March 17, at 8:51 a.m., the department assisted police on Park Street. The department returned to service at 9:07 a.m.

On Thursday, March 18, at 1:49 p.m., the department responded to a chimney fire on Foster Street in Bondsville. The department returned to service at 2:52 p.m.

On Friday, March 19, at 7:32 p.m., the department responded to a structure fire on Palmer Road in Ware. The department returned to service at 9:38 p.m.

On Saturday, March 20, at 5:38 p.m., the department responded to a brush fire on Olney Road. The department returned to service at 7:12 p.m.

On Sunday, March 21, at 10:58 a.m., the department responded to a smoke detector activation on Knox Street. The department returned to 11:13 a.m.

On Sunday, March 21, at 3:14 p.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle fire on Mass Pike. The department returned to service at 3:40 p.m.

On Sunday, March 21, at 3:30 p.m., the department responded to a structure fire on Grove Street. The department returned to service at 5:43 p.m.

On Tuesday, March 23, at 11:47 a.m., the department responded to a structure fire on Main Street in Ware. The department returned to service at 2:30 p.m.

THREE RIVERS

The Three Rivers Fire Department responded to 11 calls from March 17-22:

On Wednesday, March 17, at 6:04 p.m., the department responded to an unauthorized burning on Burlingame Road. The department returned to service at 6:46 p.m.

On Thursday, March 18, at 1:49 p.m., the department provided mutual aid to the Bondsville Fire Department for a chimney fire on Foster Street. The department returned to service at 2:28 p.m.

On Saturday, March 20, at 12:33 p.m., the department responded to a call, requesting a smoke investigation on Belchertown Street. The department returned to service at 12:40 p.m.

On Saturday, March 20, at 2:05 p.m., the department provided mutual aid to the Wilbraham Fire Department or a brush

fire on Three Rivers Road. The department returned to service at 3:56 p.m.

On Saturday, March 20, at 2:56 p.m., the department responded to a call, requesting a smoke investigation on Charles Street. The department returned to service at 3:30 p.m.

On Saturday, March 20, at 3:30 p.m., the department responded to an unauthorized burning on Main Street. The department returned to service at 3:45 p.m.

On Saturday, March 20, at 11:12 p.m., the department responded to an unauthorized burning on Springfield Street. The department returned to service at 11:33 p.m.

On Sunday, March 21, at 12:05 p.m., the department responded to a call, requesting a smoke investigation on Springfield Street. The department returned to service at 12:35 p.m.

On Sunday, March 21, at 3:33 p.m., the department provided mutual aid to the Palmer Fire Department for a car fire on Grove Street. The department returned to service at 4:21 p.m.

On Monday, March 22, at 10:09 p.m., the department responded to a call requesting an investigation for an outside fire on Oak Street. The department returned to service at 10:24 p.m.

On Monday, March 22, at 10:21 a.m., the department responded to a call, requesting a smoke investigation on Calkins Road. The department returned to service at 10:30 a.m.

BONDSDVILLE

The Bondsville Fire Department responded to six calls March 16 -22:

On Wednesday, March 17, at 9:12 a.m., the department responded to a call, requesting a smoke investigation from a chimney on Hill Street. The department returned to service at 10:04 a.m.

On Thursday, March 18, at 1:48 p.m., the department responded to chimney fire on Foster Street. The department returned to service at 2:28 p.m.

On Friday, March 19, at 8:01 p.m., the department provided mutual aid on Palmer Road in Ware for a structure fire. The department returned to service at 8:38 p.m.

On Saturday, March 20, at 2:20 p.m., the department responded to a brush fire in Three Rivers Road in Wilbraham. The call was cancelled on arrival and the department returned to service at 2:32 p.m.

On Saturday, March 20, at 2:35 p.m., the department provided mutual aid to Stony Hill Road in Wilbraham for a smoke investigation. The department returned to service at 2:52 p.m.

On Sunday, March 21, at 3:33 p.m., the department provided mutual to Grove Street in Palmer to assist a car and brush fire, next to a house. The department returned to service at 4:30 p.m.

MONSON

The Monson Fire Department responded to 17 EMS calls and 10 fire calls March 15-21:

On Tuesday, March 16, at 4:38 p.m., the department responded to a motor vehicle accident in the vicinity of Wilbraham Street. The department returned to service at 5:07 p.m.

On Thursday, March 18, at 10:29 a.m., the department responded to a fire alarm activation on Palmer Road. The department returned to service at 10:44 a.m.

On Thursday, March 18, at 10:28 a.m., the department responded to a possible chimney fire on Grandview Terrace. The department returned to service at 11:02 a.m.

On Thursday, March 18, at 5:25 p.m., the department responded to a brush fire on Hillcrest Cemetery. The department returned to service at 5:51 p.m.

On Friday, March 19, at 9:48 a.m., the department responded to a call, requesting a fire investigation on Upper Hampden Road. The department returned to service at 10:21 a.m.

On Friday, March 19, at 5:18 p.m., the department responded to a chimney fire on Bumstead Road. The department returned to service at 6:07 p.m.

On Saturday, March 20, at 8:49 a.m., the department responded to a fire alarm activation on East Hill Road. The department returned to service at 9:22 a.m.

On Saturday, March 20, at 1:37 p.m., the department responded to a structure fire on Cushman Street. The department returned to service at 3:25 p.m.

On Sunday, March 21, at 11:52 a.m., the department responded to a brush fire on Stebbins Road. The department returned to service at 3:07 p.m.

On Sunday, March 21, at 12:21 a.m., the department responded to a brush fire. The department returned to service at 12:39 p.m.



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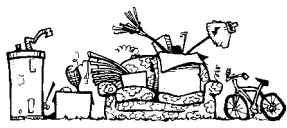
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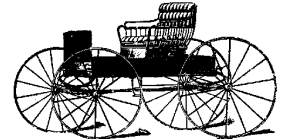
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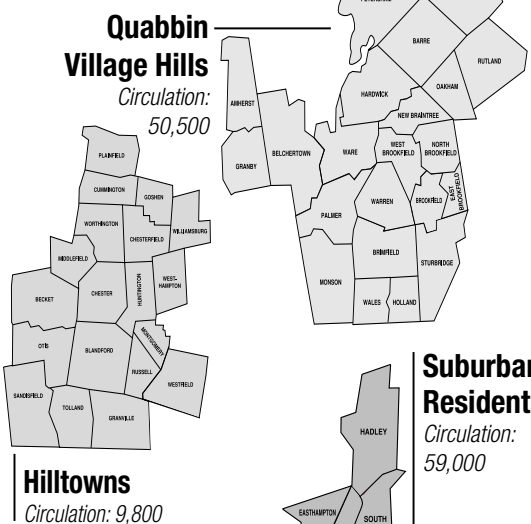
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28	Base Price \$26.50	Base Price \$27.00	Base Price \$27.50
29	Base Price \$26.50	Base Price \$27.00	Base Price \$27.50
30	Base Price \$26.50	Base Price \$27.00	Base Price \$27.50
31	Base Price \$26.50	Base Price \$27.00	Base Price \$27.50
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35	Base Price \$26.50	Base Price \$27.00	Base Price \$27.50
36	Base Price \$26.50	Base Price \$27.00	Base Price \$27.50
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North Brookfield Savings Bank hires new president and CEO

Will work with Donna Boulanger until her December retirement

NORTH BROOKFIELD – Following an extensive search, the Board of Trustees of North Brookfield Savings Bank is pleased to announce that Marco Bernasconi, Jr. will succeed Donna L. Boulanger as president and Chief Executive Officer. Bernasconi will join the bank as the president on April 5, and work along-side Boulanger over the remaining months of this year. Upon her retirement, he will also assume the title of Chief Executive Officer.

Boulanger Donna remain involved with the bank as a Trustee and Corporator. “I am honored the Board and Donna have placed their confidence in me to lead North Brookfield Savings Bank into the future and to continue serving its customers and the community,” said Bernasconi.

Marco joins the Bank from COCC where he worked for 27 years. He joined COCC as a loan Customer Representative and rose through the ranks and most recently held the position as Senior Vice President, client service officer, chief service officer, a role he has held since



Donna Boulanger Marco Bernasconi Jr.

2010. While at COCC, he gained experience in many areas of banking and business, including; strategic planning, risk management and Fintech. COCC is an award-winning, client-owned financial technology company servicing financial institutions throughout the Northeastern United States.

Bernasconi’s strong Fintech and digital banking knowledge are the perfect fit for the bank’s strategic goals moving forward. “I am confident that this change will be a positive one for the bank, the staff and the community as a whole. We must continue to look forward and find ways to evolve and innovate so that we may remain independent and true to our mission and core values,” said Boulanger. “Today is a very humbling day for me as I reflect back on my first day of work at North Brookfield

Savings Bank some 13 years ago. I came to North Brookfield because I believed in this bank. I saw then how clearly we empower people and ultimately make the community a better place. These are the same mission and values that continue to motivate me today.”

“While the bank has seen great success, the leadership team is eager to do more and evolve to keep pace with the changing technology and trends. The banking industry has changed over the years at a rapid pace, one with which, we must keep up with. It’s the next chapter in banking. “I am excited to leverage the traditions of the past with an eye on advancing technology and digital capabilities moving into the future,” said Bernasconi.

“We are fortunate to have someone of Marco’s caliber and experience to lead the bank. We are at a critical moment and we need new and fresh leadership to not only continue our good work but to take advantage of the market opportunities ahead. With Marco’s proven track record of execution, his strong communication skills and leadership capabilities, we are confident in the future of North Brookfield Savings Bank,” said Boulanger.

Bernasconi is looking forward to the future and getting to know not only his internal team, but the community mem-

bers as well. “I have spent my career preparing for this opportunity. I’m fortunate to have worked with hundreds of community financial institutions and look forward to leveraging all this experience in the communities that we serve,” he said. North Brookfield Savings Bank is a mutual savings bank with full-service branches in North Brookfield, East Brookfield, West Brookfield, Ware, Belchertown, Palmer and Three Rivers Village of Palmer.

NBSB offers a wide variety of deposit and loan products for individuals and businesses throughout Central and Western Massachusetts and has been a steadfast supporter of the communities in which it serves since 1854.

North Brookfield Savings Bank recently announced they received a 5-Star Superior rating from BauerFinancial. The bank has earned and maintained this 5-star rating for 100 consecutive quarters, which means that North Brookfield Savings Bank qualifies for an elite designation of a “Sustained Superiority Bank.” This status is reserved for the top 10% of the nation’s banks, those that have maintained BauerFinancial’s highest 5-Star rating longer than 90% of the industry. All deposits are insured by the FDIC and the Depositors Insurance Fund.

Volunteers needed for Earth Day river sweep

PALMER – Local citizens are banding together to tackle litter in Three Rivers as part of a national river cleanup in celebration of Earth Day.

The Palmer Conservation Commission, in partnership with American Rivers, the Chicopee 4 Rivers Watershed Council, Keep Palmer Clean, and Country Bank will conduct a river cleanup with the help of volunteers on Saturday April 17.

“The Palmer Conservation Commission is dedicated to protecting Palmer’s Rivers because a healthy community starts with a healthy river,” said Sarah Fortune, Conservation Assistant for the Town of Palmer.

“Clean and healthy rivers provide everything from clean drinking water to recreation opportunities to fish and wildlife habitat.”

The Earth Day river clean-up will be held 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 17, at Lavolette Field in Three Rivers – rain or shine. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Volunteers will be required to adhere to all COVID-19 safety guidelines and social distancing protocols during the event. Light refreshments will be provided.

For more information, contact Fortune at 413-626-7084 or sfortune@townofpalmer.com.

Public notices

PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 6 M.G.L., the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, April 5, 2021 at 7:30PM** virtually via Zoom.

Meeting ID: 982 5179 2803
Passcode: 616011

The applicant, Hector Quiles, is seeking a Finding under section 171.83Q for reconstruction after destruction of a pre-existing, non-conforming structure on the property located at 61 French Drive, Palmer, MA. The applicant is requesting to alter the location and architectural elevations of the previous approvals granted for construction of a new single-family home. This parcel is also known as Assessor’s Map 68, Lot 66.

A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Department office in Administrative Building from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM Monday through Thursday.

Anyone interested in more information or wishing to be heard on the application can contact the Planning Department at 413-283-2605 or appear at the time and place designated above.

This notice shall also be posted on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association’s (MNPA) website (<http://masspublicnotices.org>).

Michael Marcinieć, Chairman
03/18, 03/25/2021

NOTICE OF MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by **Eric Curboy and Kathryn Angers to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc. as nominee for Savers Co-Operative Bank dated April 21, 2006, recorded at the Hampden County Registry of Deeds** in Book 15839, Page 315; said mortgage was then assigned to Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency by virtue of an assignment dated **December 7, 2010**, and recorded in Book 18625, Page 144; of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder for breach

of conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosing the same will be sold at PUBLIC AUCTION at **01:00 PM on April 22, 2021**, on the mortgaged premises. This property has the address of **196 Wales Road, Brimfield, MA 01010**. The entire mortgaged premises, all and singular, the premises as described in said mortgage:

The land with the buildings thereon located in Brimfield, Hampden County, Massachusetts bounded and described as follows: A certain parcel of land on the westerly side of the road leading from Brimfield to Wales known as Route 19 bounded to wit: BEGINNING on the westerly side of said highway at a point 30 feet southerly of the southerly line of a culvert crossing said highway, which point is the northeasterly corner of the land to be conveyed and running; THENCE westerly along land formerly of Arthur E. Vaughn 285 feet, more or less, to the center of a big rock; THENCE turning and running southerly in a line at right angle to the line just previously described for a distance of 125 feet; THENCE turning and running easterly along land now or formerly of said Vaughn 285 feet, more or less, to the westerly line of said highway #19; THENCE northwesterly along the westerly line of said highway #19, 125 feet to the point of beginning. Subject to takings for highway purposes made by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in connection with the reconstruction of Route #19. BEING the same premises conveyed to us by deed of Lasalle Bank, NA dated April 18, 2006 and recorded in the Hampden County Registry of Deeds immediately prior to this in Book 15839, Page 313.

Subject to and with the benefit of easements, reservation, restrictions, and taking of record, if any, insofar as the same are now in force and applicable. In the event of any typographical error set forth herein in the legal description of the premises, the description as set forth and contained in the mortgage shall control by reference. Together with all the improvements now or hereafter erected on the property and all easements,

rights, appurtenances, rents, royalties, mineral, oil and gas rights and profits, water rights and stock and all fixtures now or hereafter a part of the property. All replacements and additions shall also be covered by this sale.

Terms of Sale: Said premises will be sold subject to any and all unpaid taxes and assessments, tax sales, tax titles and other municipal liens and water or sewer liens and State or County transfer fees, if any there are, and TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$10,000.00) in cashier’s or certified check will be required to be paid by the purchaser at the time and place of the sale as a deposit and the balance in cashier’s or certified check will be due in thirty (30) days, at the offices of Doonan, Graves & Longoria, LLC (“DG&L”), time being of the essence. The Mortgagee reserves the right to postpone the sale to a later date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the sale and to further postpone at any adjourned sale-date by public proclamation at the time and date appointed for the adjourned sale date. The premises is to be sold subject to and with the benefit of all easements, restrictions, leases, tenancies, and rights of possession, building and zoning laws, encumbrances, condominium liens, if any and all other claim in the nature of liens, if any there be.

In the event that the successful bidder at the foreclosure sale shall default in purchasing the within described property according to the terms of this Notice of Sale and/or the terms of the Memorandum of Sale executed at the time of foreclosure, the Mortgagee reserves the right to sell the property by foreclosure deed to the second highest bidder, providing that said second highest bidder shall deposit with the Mortgagee’s attorneys, the amount of the required deposit as set forth herein. If the second highest bidder declines to purchase the within described property, the Mortgagee reserves the right to purchase the within described property at the amount bid by the second highest bidder. The foreclosure deed and the consideration paid by the successful bidder shall be held in escrow by DG&L, (hereinafter called the “Escrow Agent”) until the deed shall be released from escrow to the successful bidder at the same time as the consideration is released to the Mortgagee, whereupon all obligations of the Escrow Agent shall be deemed to have been properly fulfilled and the Escrow Agent shall be discharged. Other terms, if any, to be announced at the sale.

Dated: March 4, 2021
Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency

By its Attorney
DOONAN, GRAVES & LONGORIA, LLC, 100 Cummings Center, Suite 303C,

Beverly, MA 01915
(978) 921-2670
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03/25, 04/01, 04/08/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Hampden Division 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-8600

Docket No. HD21P0174EA

Estate of:

David Joseph Blais

Also Known As:

David Blais

Date of Death:

November 20, 2020

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Joseph Blais** of Three Rivers, MA. MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
03/25/2021

PALMER CONSERVATION COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the Wetland Protection Act of the General Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Chapter 131, Section 40, and the Town of Palmer Wetlands Ordinance, Chapter 168, the Palmer Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on **Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 7:00 PM** on the application of BSC Group c/o the New England Power Company of 40 Sylvan Road, Waltham, MA 02451.

The applicant has submitted a Notice of Intent for activities associated with proposed maintenance and improvements at up to thirty-three (33) structures along the X176 Transmission Line Right-of-Way (ROW). The work is proposed within Bordering Vegetated Wetlands (BVW), Land Under Water (LUW), the 100-foot Buffer Zone

to BVW, Bordering Land Subject to Flooding (BLSF), 200-foot Riverfront Area, and the locally protected 50-foot No Disturb Zone to adjacent wetlands. Portions of the proposed project are also located within Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program (NHESP) Priority and Estimated Habitats.

The project site is located at the X176 Transmission Line Right-of-Way (ROW) in Palmer, MA 01069, and is identified by various Assessor’s Map and Plat Numbers.

Public Participation will be via Virtual Means Only - Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor’s March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Palmer Conservation Commission will be conducted via remote participation. The public may participate in this meeting via Remote Participation: A website for the meeting will be provided on the Conservation Agenda posted on the Town’s website at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Copies of the Notice of Intent may be examined electronically by visiting this Website: <https://www.townofpalmer.com/conservation>

Donald Blais, Jr
Chair,
Palmer Conservation Commission
03/25/2021

MORTGAGEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

By virtue of the Power of Sale contained in a certain mortgage given by Dream Junction, LLC to Freedom Credit Union dated December 1, 2014 and registered with the Hampden County Registry of Deeds Land Registration Office as Document Number 201,687 filed with Certificate of Title Number 35207, of which mortgage the undersigned is the present holder, for breach of the conditions of said mortgage and for the purpose of foreclosure, the same will be sold at Public Auction at **11:00 a.m. on the 28th day of April, 2021**, on the mortgaged premises believed to be known as 1440-1446 North Main Street, Palmer, Hampden County, Massachusetts, and sometimes referred to as 1440-1446 Main Street, Palmer, Hampden County, Massachusetts, all and singular the premises described in said mortgage, to wit:

“1440-1446 North Main Street, Palmer, Hampden County, Massachusetts

The land in Palmer, Hampden County, Massachusetts:

Northeasterly by North Main Street eighty-eight and 08/100 (88.08) feet;

Southeasterly by Foundry Street one hundred eighty-one and 54/100 (181.54) feet;

Southwesterly one hun-

dred thirty-four and 74/100 (134.72) feet, and;

Northwesterly forty-five and 27/100 (45.27) feet by Land now or formerly of Ware River Railroad Company; and

Northeasterly sixty-six and 56/100 (66.56) feet, and

Northwesterly one hundred thirty-four and 68/100 (134.68) feet by land now or formerly of Charles Warka Jr., et. al.

All of said boundaries are determined by the Court to be located as shown on a plan drawn by Arthur E. Sullivan, Engineer, dated August 1, 1949, as modified and approved by the Court, filed in Land Registration Office, a copy of which is filed with Certificate of Title No. 5751.

BEING the same premises conveyed to mortgagor herein by Deed cert # 35207.”

The premises will be sold subject to any and all restrictions, easements, improvements, covenants, outstanding tax titles, municipal or other public taxes, assessments, liens or claims in the nature of liens, and existing encumbrances of record superior to the mortgage, if any. Said premises will also be sold subject to all leases and tenancies having priority over said mortgage, to tenancies or occupation by persons on the premises now and at the time of said auction which tenancies or occupation are subject to said mortgage, to rights or claims in personal property installed by tenants or former tenants now located on the premises, also to all laws and ordinances including, but not limited to, all building and zoning laws and ordinances. It shall be the purchaser’s sole responsibility to ascertain all items described in this paragraph and no representations are made concerning compliance with applicable zoning, building, sanitary or other state and/or municipal regulations.

TERMS OF SALE: TWENTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 (\$20,000.00) DOLLARS will be required to be paid in cash, or by certified or bank cashier’s check by the purchaser at the time and place of sale. The balance of the purchase price in connection with the sale shall be paid in cash, or by certified or bank cashier’s check within thirty (30) days of the date of the sale and the Deed transferred contemporaneously therewith at which time the purchaser shall also pay directly to the auctioneer a buyer’s premium equal to five percent (5%) of the purchase price. The purchaser at the sale shall be required to sign a Memorandum of terms of sale containing the above terms at the Auction sale. The purchaser will be responsible for all closing costs, Massachusetts deed excise stamps and all recording fees.

The sale may be postponed or adjourned from time to time, if necessary, by the attorney for the mortgagee at the scheduled time and place of sale. The description for the premises contained in said mortgage shall control in the event of a typographical error in this publication.

Other terms, if any, will

be announced at the sale.

Freedom Credit Union,
Present Holder of said Mortgage

By:

/s/ Jonathan C.

Sapirstein

Jonathan C. Sapirstein
SAPIRSTEIN & SAPIRSTEIN, P.C.

1331 Main Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, MA 01103

(413) 827-7500
Its Attorneys

Date: March 11, 2021
03/18, 03/25, 04/01/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Hampden Probate and Family Court 50 State Street Springfield, MA 01103 (413)748-7758

Docket No. HD21P0465EA

Estate of:

Ronald Lehel Fennyery

Also known as:

Ronald Fennyery,

Ronald L. Fennyery

Date of Death: 02/14/2021

CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons: A Petition for FFormal Appointment of Personal Representative has been filed by: **Donald E Fennyery** of Medway, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Donald E Fennyery** of Medway, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in an **unsupervised administration**.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/09/2021**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon.

Barbara M Hyland, First Justice of this Court.

Date: March 12, 2021

Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate

03/25/2021

Legal Notice

The Monson School Committee will hold a Public Hearing to discuss the proposed 2021-2022 School Department budget, as required by law, on **Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.**

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://zoom.us/j/95331857870>

Meeting ID: 953 3185 7870

One tap mobile
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+19292056099, 95331857870# US (New York)

Dial by your location
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+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 953 3185 7870

Find your local number:
<https://zoom.us/j/95331857870>

03/25, 04/01/2021

PALMER PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40A, Section 11, M.G.L. the Palmer Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, April 5, 2021 at 7:00 PM** virtually via Zoom.
Meeting ID: 982 5179 2803
Passcode: 616011

The applicant, RDL Associates, LLC, 136 Carmelina Circle, Ludlow MA 01056, is seeking a Special Permit as required by section 171.73 of the Palmer Zoning Ordinance to remove Earth materials from the property located off Palmer Street, Bondsville, also known as Assessor’s Map 24 Lot 66.

A copy of the application may be inspected at the Planning Department office in the Town Administration Building Monday-Thursday 8am – 4:30pm
Anyone interested in more information or wishing to be heard on the application can contact the Planning Department at 283-2605 or appear at the time and place designated above.

This notice shall also be posted on the Massachusetts Newspaper Publishers Association’s (MNPA) website (<http://masspublicnotices.org>).

Michael Marcinieć,
Chairman

03/18, 03/25/2021

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R	A	D	S		M	E	D	E	A		N	E	C	K

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

E-mail items to mharrison@turley.com or mail to Calendar Editor, Journal Register, 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069, for receipt by Monday of week for publication.

Editor's note: Due to the coronavirus pandemic, events featured in the Journal Register, including those previewed in stories, briefs and on the calendar page, may be canceled with little notice. The Journal Register encourages readers to contact event coordinators and organizers for updated event times. Have an event to promote? Email the information (in a Word doc or as email text – no PDFs, please – to mharrison@turley.com.

NOW

PET FOOD DRIVE: In support of local animal shelters, such as Brimfield's Here Today Adopted Tomorrow Animal Sanctuary, BSA Troop 5164 is running a pet supply drive at 2 p.m. on March 28 at 114 Thorndike Street in Palmer. Wet dog food and dry cat food needed in addition to supplies such as toys. To learn more about HTAT, including how to get assistance, go to heretodaysanctuary.org and visit them on Facebook. Learn more about Troop 1564 on Facebook.

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION: Looking to connect with your inner self? Hitchcock Academy has classes in mindfulness meditation to help you throw off your winter fog. Now underway and continuing over the next three weeks, instructor Annette Farrington will be your online guide to forming mindfulness meditation practices that will help you deal with and manage your stress level. Register at hitchcockacademy.org.

SOON

EASTER SERVICE: The First Congregational Church of Brimfield UCC invites you to join us in front of the church, 20 Main Street, Brimfield, for sunrise service 6:15 a.m. Easter morning. Masks are required. Social distancing will be observed. Please dress warmly.

HISTORY OF QUABBIN: The Palmer Public Library will be hosting an online slide presentation by NY Times Bestselling Author Michael Tougias at 6:30 p.m. April 6. The topic is "Quabbin: A History and Explorers Guide." Tougias will start with the flooding of the lost towns then move into the construction of the Quabbin followed by his favorite places to explore there today. You can learn more, order personalized copies, and see some of the images at michaeltougias.com

FILM FESTIVAL FUNDRAISER: The Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Holyoke is hosting a virtual fundraising event featuring the 2021 Winnie Film Festival Tour. This film fest will feature exclusive world premier short documentary films that celebrate the healing powers of the horse. Enjoy two hours of inspiring and heartwarming films anytime from 5 p.m. on Friday, April 9, until 10 p.m. Sunday, April 11. Registration fee is \$25, which helps support the not-for-profit TEC. You'll be provided a link to stream to any smart device such as phones, tablets, and TVs. Binge in one sitting or stretch the viewing out over the entire weekend – the choice is yours! To register, go to tecriders.org.

SECOND TIME'S A CHARM: Non-profit Dress Shop 11 a.m.-3 p.m. April 10 in Three Rivers. All volunteer run. They take formal attire donations and consign them back out for no cost or a donation. Allows ladies and gents and even the parents too, to be dressed to impress for prom season and other events without spending hundreds of dollars. This is an amazing way to recycle and not let items sit in the closet. Maddie's Dogs Hot Dog Cart will be on site serving purchased lunches!

EARTH DAY RIVER SWEEP: Volunteers needed for a river clean-up 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 17, at Laviolette Field in Three Rivers – rain or shine. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Volunteers will be required to adhere to all COVID-19 safety guidelines and social distancing protocols during the event. Light refreshments will be provided. For more information, contact Fortune at 413-626-7084 or sfortune@townofpalmer.com.

From the Palmer Library

2020 Tax Forms are now available through the Palmer Public Library Curbside Pickup. To schedule a time to pick up forms, please visit palmerlibrary.org/taxforms or call us at 413-283-3330 (press 0 then dial ext. 100).

ONGOING

EVERYONE INVITED TO AQUACISE: The Ludlow Community Center/Randall Boys & Girls Club at 91 Claudia's Way, Ludlow, offer Aquacise for residents of Monson, Palmer, Brimfield, Holland and Wales.

Aquacise will be offered 8-8:45 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Aquacise is a low-impact, full-body workout performed in the water to put less stress on your joints and muscles while building strength. To reserve a spot visit ludlowbgc.org and click on Adult Programs, or call Matt Thompson at 413-583-2072, ext. 122. For updates on the facility, register on the website to receive Club emails. The Club continues to make health and safety its No. 1 priority to ensure all visitors who enter the building have a clean and safe environment.

MUSIC LESSONS, YOGA AND MORE: Just because days are short, and the thermometer reads cold doesn't mean there's nothing to do. Hitchcock Academy constantly works with instructors to offer options to its community members. Look for upcoming classes in yoga, tai chi, meditation, and fencing. Hitchcock Academy follows all current COVID guidelines for cleaning and social distancing and anyone using the facility must wear a mask.

All information regarding current class offerings, events, and registration are available at hitchcockacademy.org.

FREE FOOD PROGRAM: The Massachusetts Military Support Foundation has found a way to get food to families that need it. The Farmers to Families program, set up by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is part of a Coronavirus Food Assistance Program that help people all over the nation and has a site in Springfield open to all residents. The program will supply food kits with fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products and meat products that distributes package into family-sized boxes. You can register for your food kit at mmsfi.org. On the website choose "Springfield, Ma" as your pick up site and sign-up. Register for one week or all four with easy one time registration. Food kit includes fresh dairy, protein, and produce totaling 30+ pounds of food. Military families are encouraged to sign-up but registration is open to the public.

BOOKSTORE at the Unitarian Universalist Parish of Monson at the corner of Lincoln and Main streets in Monson is open the first Friday of every month from 5:30-7:30 p.m., the third Saturday of every month from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Books priced from 25 cents to \$1 each: fiction, nonfiction, thrillers, horror, mystery, science fiction, how-to, classic literature, children's books, romances, cookbooks, gardening books and more. All proceeds benefit the parish. Donations are accepted. Call Mary at 267-9952 for more information. While currently closed, we are anticipating reopening later this year.

LEARN ABOUT LOCAL HISTORY: Want to learn more about local history? The Elbow Plantation Historical Society is available for research and other information. They can be reached at elbow.plantation@gmail.com. Send them your questions and comments and leave your preferred contact information and they will respond asap.

THE MONSON LIONS CLUB has a 20-foot x 20-foot tent for rent. The cost is \$75 for a two-day event. The club will put it up and take it down. For more details, contact Curt at 413-668-6653.

DAY SPRING LODGE A.F. & A.M. located 14 Bliss St., Monson is making its hall available for rent for \$75 for a variety of parties and functions. For reservations., call Doug Battige at 413-267-5855 or 413-265-9398.

RESERVE YOUR CELEBRATION TENT now for your First Communion, bridal and baby showers, graduation parties, family reunions, birthday parties or any other kind of celebration you may have outdoors. The Palmer Lions Club has a tent for you, either 20-feet x 20-feet for \$125 or 20-feet x 40-feet for \$200. This includes setup and takedown in the Palmer area. Call Karen at 413-813-8445 to make a reservation. You may need to leave a message and your call will be returned. The Palmer Lions Club tent rental fees go towards assistance for the people of Palmer, Bondsville, Three Rivers and Thorndike.

SALVATION ARMY ASSISTANCE: Residents of Palmer, Thorndike, Bondsville and Three Rivers seeking emergency help with fuel assistance, utility payments/shut off, food, and clothing can contact the Salvation Army in Canton, MA at 339-502-5900. This is the office located in Canton, MA. If eligible, staff there will be able to address your concerns and provide assistance until the local Palmer office is once again staffed by a volunteer outreach coordinator.

MAKE A DONATION to the Monson Free Library in honor of a special person or family member, in the form of a book, DVD or CD, audio book or magazine subscription. The person will receive a letter informing them of your gift. The cost of donations is \$25 for a book, \$20 for a CD or DVD, \$100 for an audio book and \$20 for a magazine subscription. For more information call 267-3866.

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP Please join us at 6 p.m. every first Thursday of the month at Palmer Healthcare Center, 250 Shearer St. Palmer. Light refreshments will be served Contact Kate Martin at 413-283-8361 for more information.

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED Who is Jesus? What did he achieve? How should we respond? "Christianity Explored" is a study which seeks to answer these questions from the Gospel of Mark. The course involves seven weekly one-hour sessions using Bible study, related DVD viewing, and discussion of the pertinent passages. For more information contact Mal at 413-250-8548.

MONSON DEMOCRATS WANTED by the Monson Democratic Town Committee. Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month over Zoom. Contact Chair Karen Nothe-Valley at 413-846-3041 or karen_monsondems@yahoo.com.

WEEKLY CLASSES at Holland Community Center, 40 Brimfield Road, Holland. Mondays and Wednesdays lunch is served at noon, reservations required by calling 413-245-3163 and a \$2 donation is requested. Mondays at 10 a.m. is yoga class with Mah Jongg, and Monday evenings at 6 p.m. is Texas Hold 'Em. Tuesdays at 10 a.m. is the Coffee

Social which is open to everyone, and Open Crafts are held on Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Zumba is held on Wednesdays at 10 a.m., Mah Jongg is at 1 p.m. and Yoga is at 5 p.m., plus Pitch at 6:30 p.m. Stained glass is every Thursday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. and Cribbage is weekly on Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. Walking Club is on Thursdays at 4 p.m. The Billiard Room is open Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. For everyone. For more information, call 413-245-3163.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS is a non-profit fellowship or society of men and women for whom drugs had become a major problem. The group is comprised of recovering addicts who meet regularly to help each other stay clean. Local meetings are held every Sunday at 6:30 p.m. at The Living Room of Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Park St., Ware; every Monday at 7 p.m. at St. Patrick's Church, 22 Green St., Monson; Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Belchertown United Congregational Church, 18 Park St., Belchertown; every Thursday at 7:30 p.m. and the Palmer Historical & Cultural Center, 2072 Main St., Three Rivers; and every Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Second Congregational Church, 1080 Pleasant St., Palmer. For more information or to find additional meetings throughout the New England area, visit www.nema.org.

PALMER FOOD SHARE, INC., an emergency food pantry, is open on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:30-11:15 a.m. Food Share is located at 39 Walnut St. in Palmer. Call 283-3614 with questions or to order to pick up food.

AL-ANON FRIDAY NIGHT BOOK STUDY meetings - a fellowship of relatives and friends of alcoholics who share their experience, strength and hope in order to solve our common problems. We believe alcoholism is a family illness and that changed attitudes can aid recovery. Al-Anon has one purpose, to help families and friends of alcoholics. The group meets Fridays at Second Congregational Church, 1080 Pleasant St., Palmer from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

GREENE ROOM PRODUCTIONS is seeking people who would like to support the arts by being a part of its fundraising committee/booster club. The club is looking to fund-raise, find sponsors, donors, and underwriters for upcoming productions, workshops, and educational opportunities. All interested individuals are invited to the next board meeting. If you are interested in being a part of Greene Room Productions or for more information, contact Erin Greene at (413) 668-7284 as soon as possible.

FREE HEALTH SERVICES are available at the Monson Council on Aging from 9 –11:30 a.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. Services include a free blood pressure and glucose check. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 267-4121. Walk-ins are welcome.

FAMILY GAMBLING-ANON GROUP on the first and third Monday of every month from 6:30-8 p.m. in the Haynes Chapel (behind the sanctuary) at Sturbridge Federated Church at Maple Street and Route 131 in Sturbridge. For those interested in gaining more support to promote your gambling recovery. To join this new group, call Doug at 508-887-1696 or Dee at 508-347-2122 or just come to the meeting.

LIBRARY LOFT Used Book Store at Schoolhouse Commons, 1085 Park St. (Route 20) in Palmer. Regular winter hours are: Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Book donations will be accepted at the Palmer Public Library or at the Library Loft during open hours. Please, no magazines or Reader's

Digest Condensed Books. We accept books only in good, clean condition. For more information, call 283-3330, ext. 100, or visit www.palmer.lib.ma.us.

THE MONSON COUNCIL ON AGING Meals on Wheels drivers deliver delicious home cooked meals to Monson Seniors (age 60+) in their homes every Monday through Friday. Seniors who could benefit from receiving a home delivered meal are those just returning from a stay in the hospital, rehab unit or nursing home, those who live by themselves and find it difficult to get out, and frail seniors who are alone much of the day while family members are at work. The Meals on Wheels program provides seniors with a daily hot nutritious meal, and a friendly visitor during the middle of the day. Meals can be ordered every day, or only as needed. Call the Monson Senior Center at 267-4121, for more info and to enroll. The requested donation is \$2.50 per meal. The Monson COA Nutrition Program is funded, in part, by a grant from Greater Springfield Senior Services, Inc.

THE MONSON ARTS COUNCIL is seeking new members. One does not have to be a resident of the town of Monson to become a member. The Arts Council is a nonprofit organization dedicated to bringing the arts to Monson and the region and it depends upon membership dues for support and the ability to provide various programs. The public is welcome to attend the council's monthly meetings, held on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the House of Art. The council welcomes new program ideas and participation in all activities. For more info, call 267-9764.

GED MATH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Top Floor Learning, Inc. at the Palmer Public Library is accepting applications for helping adults pass the GED Math test. Adults who have a high school diploma and good math skills in algebra, geometry, and word problems are eligible to apply. Call 283-2329 for info.

A SUPPORT GROUP FOR COMPULSIVE GAMBLERS, Gam-Anon of Longmeadow, invites all family and friends of people with gambling addictions to its weekly meetings. The Gam-Anon group meets every Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the First Church of Christ, 763 Longmeadow Street (corner of routes 5 & 192) in Longmeadow. For more info, visit www.gam-anon.org, or call (800) 266-1908.

INTERESTS

KEEP HOMESTEAD MUSEUM at 35 Ely Rd., Monson is closed until further notice due to the continuation of the COVID 19 pandemic. There will be no meetings, tours, events or programs. They are hoping to hold the Concert on the Lawn in August. Nature trails are open daily until dusk for hiking, snowshoeing and cross-country skiing. Trail maps can be found in the parking lot. The Phillips Sculpture Garden is open year-round (handouts in box on one of the sign posts). For more information call 413-267-4137, email khn@keephomesteadmuseum.org. Visit their new website, where you can take a virtual tour, at keephomesteadmuseum.org.

THE QUABOAG VALLEY QUILTERS GUILD is looking for new members. The Guild meets on the first, third and fifth Thursdays of the month at 1 p.m. in the basement of the Palmer Historical and Cultural Center, 2072 Main St., Three Rivers. The Guild is a no pressure group with varying degrees of accomplishments, from novice to Big E "Best In Show" winners. The membership fee is \$48 a year. For more information, contact Barbara Beaulieu at 267-4044 or Merry Mombourquette at 283-7577. Follow us on Facebook.



Celebration Car Parade

We want to help you celebrate!!

Please send us your Birthday, Anniversary and Wedding announcements. Send us a short announcement no more than 40 words and a photo if possible.

We will publish them in our Car Parade Section!
mharrison@turley.com

BUY DIRECT AND SAVE \$\$\$

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN CENTER CUT PORK LOIN CHOPS or ROAST.....	\$1⁹⁹ lb
USDA INSP. STOREMADE ITALIAN SAUSAGE ALL VARIETIES FAMILY PAK ...	\$1⁹⁹ lb
USDA INSP. FRESH PORK BUTTS WHOLE.....	\$1⁶⁶ lb
USDA INSP. ROAST BEEF.....	\$5⁹⁵ lb
LENTEN SPECIALS	
USDA INSP. FROZEN WHOLE TILAPIA	\$2²⁹ lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN 40 OZ IMITATION CRAB FLAKES.....	\$4⁹⁹ lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN BREADED SHRIMP	\$3⁹⁹ lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN BEEF RIBEYE STEAKS.....	\$6⁹⁹ lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN NEW ZEALAND FRENCHED LAMB RACKS.....	\$8⁹⁹ lb
USDA INSP. GROUND FRESH DAILY 80% LEAN GROUND BEEF.....	\$2⁷⁷ 7 LB BAG

CUSTOMER PICK OF THE WEEK TURKEYS

USDA INSP. FROZEN BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN BREAST TRAY PAK	99¢ lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN CHICKEN LEG 1/4S TRAY PAK	39¢ lb
USDA INSP. FROZEN SMOKED 1/2 HAM PORTIONS BUTT or SHANK PORTIONS.....	89¢ lb
USDA INSP. HATFIELD 16-20 LB SKINLESS & SHANKLESS WHOLE SMOKED HAM.....	\$1⁹⁹ lb

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Thurs. 8-6 • Fri. 8-6 • Sat. 8-3

SALE DATES: 3/25/21 - 3/31/21

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